Reviewer’s report

Title: Producing Cochrane Systematic Reviews - a qualitative study of current approaches and opportunities for innovation and improvement

Version: 0 Date: 07 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Sarah Norris

Reviewer's report:

This is a valuable piece of research that covers the full breadth of activity in the production of a systematic review. The manuscript provides practical insights for the future production of Cochrane reviews.

Whilst the focus of the manuscript is (quite reasonably) on the production of Cochrane reviews, it is not clear how the responses of the 6 non-Cochrane interviewees have been incorporated. The manuscript describes how the emergent themes from the interviews and the survey converged, and were subsequently combined (lines 142-143). But this combining of data does not account for any differences by respondent type. If there were in fact no differences in the concepts or themes raised by the non-Cochrane respondents (relative to the Cochrane respondents), it would be helpful if the manuscript states this explicitly.

The quality of the language is high, and only the following minor edits are suggested:

- line 32: replace 'more than 100' with '106'
- line 312: change 'which are both responsible for both' to 'which are responsible for both'
- line 434: delete 'also'.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field that should be highlighted to relevant networks

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
**Declaration of competing interests**

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I am the Owner-Director of a firm that undertakes systematic reviews for government agencies and not-for-profit organisations. In the last year I have received consulting fees from Covidence.

I am a current member of the editorial board of the Cochrane Breast Cancer Group.

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