Reviewer’s report

Title: Personal goal-setting among women living with breast cancer: protocol for a scoping review

Version: 0 Date: 18 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Stephanie Hullmann

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript under review, entitled "Personal goal-setting among women living with breast cancer: protocol for a scoping review," describes the protocol for a systematic review of personal goal setting in women with breast cancer. The authors are commended for seeking to conduct a systematic review on this important and emerging topic in patient-centered care. In my reading of the manuscript, I had several suggestions to strengthen the paper.

Abstract:

1. In the Abstract, the authors state the aim of the scoping review (page 2, lines 29-30). It would also be beneficial to include the aim of the current manuscript. Otherwise, the reader may not ascertain that the current study is a description of the protocol, rather than the complete systematic review.

Introduction:

1. Similar to my comment regarding the Abstract, it is important to clearly state at the end of the Introduction that the current manuscript describes the protocol of the review, rather than the complete systematic review with results.

2. During the Introduction, the authors focus their attention on intervention studies which include goal setting as part of the intervention. Further, 2 of the 4 research questions are specific to intervention studies. Given this focus, the authors might consider focusing all of the research questions on intervention studies. For example, question 1 could be revised to state "How many intervention studies..." (page 5, line 100). Accordingly, the authors might consider revising the title of the paper to include the word "intervention." If this is not the intended purpose of the review, the authors might consider revising the language of the Introduction and the research questions to be broader.
Methods

1. The inclusion criteria seems to contradict the authors' description of the selection process. For example, on page 8 (lines 162-165), the authors describe searching for conference abstracts and grey literature. However, the inclusion criteria clearly state that the articles must be published, full-length articles and excludes theses, dissertations, conference abstracts, and other grey literature. If these papers will ultimately be excluded, why go to lengths to find them?

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

An article of limited interest

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

Acceptable

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