Reviewer's report

Title: Guidelines for reporting non-randomised pilot and feasibility studies

Version: 0 Date: 16 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Lawrence Mbuagbaw

Reviewer's report:

In this editorial the authors provide guidance on the reporting of non-randomized pilot and feasibility studies. The paper is clearly written and offers a variety of resources for investigators reporting non-randomized pilot studies.

I have the following comments:

It the introduction, it would be helpful to report what proportion of published submissions are non-randomized studies, so that the reader has a sense of how big the problem is.

It might also help to provide some commentary on the use of qualitative studies (or qualitative data) in non-randomized pilot studies. The use of qualitative data is cross-cutting between randomized and non-randomized pilot studies, but guidance is needed on how this qualitative data should be reported in the context of pilot studies, especially when qualitative outcomes constitute an important component of feasibility.

A simple and straightforward guidance statement may be helpful in the conclusion, along the lines of: "we recommend that authors use the current guidance required for the study design in question and then include additional items to emphasize the goal of feasibility, feasibility outcomes and progression criteria."

Would the authors recommend extension for the currently available guidance for non-randomized studies? For example, a STROBE extension for pilot studies.

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