Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding Plain English Summaries: A Comparison of two Approaches to Improve the Quality of Plain English Summaries in Research Reports.

Version: 0 Date: 23 May 2017

Reviewer: Rhianna Broadway

Reviewer’s report:

I thought this was really well written and much needed guidance for academics and researchers publishing articles, especially in the Medical and Science fields. There is definitely a need for this and for this message to reach these people who as you rightly point out often struggle to remove technical language.

My only slight comment is that the abstract (as oppose to the rest of the article) was harder to read - I believe a reading level of Shakespeare when I ran it through an online checker (The Writer) - for me as the first thing that people will see of the article it is important that this is as easy read as possible to make the article universally accessible.

Also, I appreciated the definition of all of the acronyms used but wondered whether it would be helpful for readers to have an acronym table somewhere? Just so there is a quick reference point for the reader to check back when they want to double check an acronym in the text.

Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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