Reviewer's report

Title: Co-creation of a digital tool for the empowerment of parents of children with physical disabilities

Version: 1 Date: 31 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Julii Brainard

Reviewer's report:

OVERVIEW

I quite like this & it certainly will be a good paper for RIE to publish. It is a nice description of how the service users helped specify the digital questions and answers (all aspects of content), and gave feedback on interface. Generally quite readable. The main things to fix are many minor English language problems.

So I would put each of my suggested revisions under a "Minor" label; that said, without many small revisions, the paper will be poorly written. Also, I may have had trouble understanding some things that authors did explain, only because the PDF that I had to review had so many tracked changes that it was sometimes hard to see the desired remaining text.

MINOR but ESSENTIAL Things to address:

Abstract,

pg 2, line 19: "timed" should be "timely"

Background

Sentence that contains "search and find information and determine and take…" that doesn't make sense in English.

Role of information in (family) empowerment

Sentence that starts "However, concrete tools"… should finish "as a whole are lacking".
What's the problem section

Last sentence is incomplete. Maybe it could read "parents of children with physical disabilities express unhappiness about a lack of information."

Closing info gap section

"In the past, doctors were the only source": that is so not true. Maybe say they were the DOMINANT source of health info?

Collaboration and co-creation, pg 9, line 5

"Parents on the panel" (not "of the panel")

Creating the digital tool

Should read "(KM) led this process" (not "was leading" unless someone else took over from KM)

Functions of the roadmap section,

Pg 11, line 3: should say "answer their questions" (not "answering their questions")

Tracked changes made it hard for me to read the revised evaluation section, that said, I think a capital W might be missing to start the sentence "We will examine effects of using the WWW-roadmap on the consultation", and the word control might be missing in the sentence "Parents in the (control?) cohort will get care-as-usual, while…"

Author contributions:

Would make more sense to write "MV and AV will conduct the subsequent study"

MINOR and Discretionary:

"Health literacy" would be a good key word to add
It was best to have deleted most of the description of planned evaluation. However, these few details would be interesting: How are you going to recruit the parents who will do the evaluation? Ideally they should not be same parents as helped develop the tool; best not to blur role of patient representatives & research subjects. Will this evaluation be an RCT or else how will patients be allocated to each arm? How many patients in each evaluation arm?

Abstract & Plain English:

I struggle with the 2nd sentence in both sections that starts "They show a large scale of unmet needs…" This would be better written, "These parents have a wide range of unmet needs, especially for information."

Background:

Sentence that starts "Parents are the experts on the functioning of their…", should be "Parents are usually the experts on their child and family,…" [Let's face it, some parents are rubbish, although vast majority are experts as described]

As a whole, background section is a bit repetitive, could say what it needs to say more concisely.

What's the Problem section

Sentence "Additionally, physicians report various barriers…": you could list 2-3 of those barriers, as examples, else I wondered what was meant.

"parent panel" phrase is used a lot, when it doesn't need to be. Eg, pg 9, top line could be "…involved in the parent panel of this project. Moreover, parents in the panel used…"

Will the Roadmap be kept up to date? Is there funding to add new links & delete obsolete ones over years to come? Who will maintain the tool (if anyone)?

Maybe this is what the authors meant to describe: can users give ratings or reviews to the linked websites and web pages, to help each other decide which resources are more reliable or helpful?

I didn't need Figure 1 or Fig. 2, the text was clear enough without them.
Discussion section

Sentence that says "She also formed" would be better to start "This parent also formed"

Discussion, looks like "on forehand" should be "beforehand".

Discussion, "… levels of involvement were eligible", should that be "levels of involvement were available"?

Discussion "more clear" probably better written as "clearer"

Discussion: FCS (line 10?): best to spell out FCS, not use acronym here

Discussion sentence that says "… prompt list to help empowering parents", change "empowering" to "empower"

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