Reviewer's report

Title: Finding and engaging patients and the public to work collaboratively on an acute infection microbiology research public panel

Version: 0 Date: 15 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Jan Rose

Reviewer's report:

How best to involve the 'right' patients and public in health research, such as this important microbiology research project, is challenging and requires much planning. I was pleased to review this paper as it set out your approach very clearly and demonstrates the positives of working this way.

I think this is a good example of how PPI can work successfully in an area of work which some might initially see as too difficult to have the patient and public involved with. I read with interest how you selected the PPI Panel and why you chose to work with a panel. Sharing your experiences in establishing the PPI panel will provide useful learning for other researchers, I am sure.

I wondered whether you had a Patient Representative on your Advisory Group and Management Group for the project overall? If so, was this person/s also on the PPI Panel?

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I have received reimbursements and fees from University West of England for PPI work with People in Health West of England (PHWE) PPI in Research Strategy Group. I have been a Public Contributor of PHWE since 2014.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

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