Reviewer’s report

Title: Using Qualitative Health Research Methods to Improve Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement in Research

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Fiona Cowdell

Reviewer’s report:

General comments

Thank you for the opportunity to review your much needed paper, with some amendment it offers new thinking about PPIE.

Interesting that you have chosen patient rather than patient and public (maybe that's a UK term). Do you see any issues with referring to patients, some people don't like being labelled as such when in this role.

Minor point but I found the use of underlining, bold and italics quite difficult to navigate.

Can you explain the term integrated knowledge translation research as it will be new to some readers, if they understand this the rest of the article will make more sense.

I would advise going through the paper and reading it from a lay perspective - there are quite a few assumptions in terms of knowledge - perhaps even explain very briefly what qualitative research is.

Do you have a lay author on the writing team?

Abstract

Patient engagement (or the co-creation of research with patients)

I'm not convinced it's a good idea to conflate the two, some would argue that they are different, perhaps just add some detail on the meanings to these terms in your paper. Reading on you've not focused on co-creation so I'd remove from abstract to avoid ambiguity.

What is missing from the recent proliferation of resources and publications detailing the practical and experiential aspects of patient engagement, however, is a recognition of how existing research theories and methodologies that have an established history of public and patient involvement can inform current patient engagement initiatives.

Could you divide this sentence for greater clarity please, otherwise a clear and engaging abstract.
The principles, values, concepts and practices of qualitative health research have rich epistemological traditions that align with the conceptual and practical spirit of patient engagement and may be helpful in this process.

I agree with you, could you be more precise and detailed here as many readers will not be familiar with qualitative methods.

Reporting of patient engagement using dense description of participants, the ways that they were engaged, and recommendations that emanated from engaged patients can also contribute to greater transferability and understanding of how patient engagement influenced the design of a research study.

Again, I agree but are there practical constraints on this type of reporting

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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**
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