Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient and Public Engagement in Integrated Knowledge Translation Research: Are we there yet?

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Reviewer: Margaret Dunham

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting area of work but the case for patient involvement, inclusion and at what level is not strongly made and should be evidenced from the literature. There is stronger supporting evidence and some of it is already in the reference list just not always considered in the right places or contexts.

There are other reviews and papers, in the area of public and patient involvement worthy of mention, such as the work of Sophie Staniszewska (Warwick UK) and Ocloo (Kings College London, UK) (e.g. Ocloo, J., & Matthews, R. (2016). From tokenism to empowerment: progressing patient and public involvement in healthcare improvement. BMJ Qual Saf, bmjqs-2015.). Also, the UK and European patient voice in research campaign 'No research about me without me' could have been mentioned.

The World Health Organisation also considers that patient involvement is important, and could have been mentioned as part of the justification (World Health Organisation (2006) Ninth futures forum on health systems governance and public participation. http://www.euro.who.int/document/e89766.pdf)

As with many areas of health care, public involvement has its own taxonomy and country specific terminology; this could have been mentioned with explanation early in the paper.

The different models of service user engagement are included in an appendix; I hope this will be more clearly embedded in or linked to the main paper.

Arguments for the benefits of service user / patient involvement are made but these are not always clearly stated or substantiated. There are important points to be made and some which need clarification, much of the literature to support this is in the reference list but not always clearly articulated or cited in the text. I think this paper should be reworked to be a stronger and more succinct, synthesis of the evidence of the benefits of service user involvement.

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