Reviewer’s report

Title: Engaging Patients and the Public in Health Research: Experiences, Perceptions and Training Needs among Manitoba Health Researchers

Version: 0 Date: 08 May 2019

Reviewer: Zarah Monfaredi

Reviewer's report:

Overall, a really interesting study with some really valuable findings! Congratulations, just a few comments below. In addition to the comments below, I would suggest a thorough read through to correct some awkward sentences and grammatical issues.

Page 4, line 15: I suggest being more specific, rather than saying "varying" stages and levels of involvement, please be specific about exactly which stages and levels of involvement.

Page 5, line 36: The spectrum reference (Reference #3) is not specific to research and the highest level is "empower", not "patient-directed" as noted in the manuscript. Consider explaining how this spectrum has been modified for research purposes.

Page 5, line 48: Please add a reference to the statement: "However, engaging with patients and the public requests... compassion and self-awareness".

Page 6, lines 16-21: This comment applies to the entire manuscript. Please be explicit about the meaning of "involvement" and "engagement". Are these terms being used interchangeably or are they referring to different types of patient/public activity? Please provide a definition for each term, be consistent with wording, and be clear if these terms are being used to refer to the same type of activity.

Page 6, line 55: You refer to "contributors"- who are these contributors? Patients? Public? Please elaborate.

Page 7, line 10: "This study aimed to address these gaps..." You have identified many gaps in the paragraph above, please be specific about which gaps this study will address.

Page 7, lines 17-20: Another example of "engaging" and "involving" being used seemingly interchangeably. Please be specific/consistent.

Page 9, line 55: "the phases of discover, dream, design, and destiny" Please provide further explanation here. For a reader unfamiliar with the appreciative inquiry approach, this doesn't serve to explain the method used.
Page 14, lines 12-14: "The type of support that health researchers responded a desire to receive..." This line is very wordy and confusing, consider being more concise, for example: "Health researchers reported needing advice or guidance..."

Page 17, line 19: "...we move along the spectrum of engagement levels" this sentence is confusing, please revise. Also, specify that the "spectrum" referenced is the IAP2 spectrum.

Page 20, line 15: "its appropriateness" Unclear, is this the appropriateness of involvement/engagement? Please clarify

Page 20, line 22: "within this growing movement" Unclear, which movement? Patient engagement? Please clarify

Page 20, line 32: "For example, the definition of a health research" a typo, I believe it should be "health researcher".

Page 20, line 51: "...practices are meeting this criteria" Unclear, which criteria? Please specify.

Page 22, lines 14-22: Please re-word this sentence. It is unclear.

Page 22, line 22: Based on your findings, it is not clear to me how this will facilitate further development of training. Perhaps it is more fitting to inform decisions surrounding the availability of support/resources.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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