Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of PhotoVoice to Engage Stakeholders in Planning for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Ann Single

Reviewer's report:

This paper is a welcome contribution to patient involvement in research. By focusing on the use of the photovoice method, it provides an example of a method for enabling patients to articulate their tacit knowledge (an essential element in the field that seems to be often overlooked). I am particularly pleased to see that one of the patient partners is also a co-author. My comments are minor revisions:

Ln 32: add reference to support assertion

Ln 43: 'convening' - this is a word I am unfamiliar with, would 'meeting' be better? Perhaps with an adjective or description which conveys a critical quality in the meeting which perhaps would result in it being called a 'convening'

Ln 53: some qualifiers on the assertions in the paper are needed. Eg here, 'was observed to increase cohesion' or 'may have'

Ln 55 - 72: The plain English summary could be much plainer because it is there to capture the broadest literate audience. It might begin with something like: "People with conditions like anxiety may know a lot about what it is like to live day to day with anxiety, but some of that knowledge will be hard to put into words in a way that others can understand it. Photovoice is a method which can help people share that tacit knowledge with others. Sometimes it can even help people know what they know. In this project, people with anxiety used Photovoice to share what they knew about living with anxiety with researchers and health professionals.” I think you will know this from your work, but just a reminder that plain language is not just about using simpler words and shorter sentences, it's about telling a story that readers can connect with (so what) in language that means something to the reader. So sometimes, being more specific (saying something the reader can visual) than a scientific summary (where there is already a lot of agreement on words between reader and writer) can help. Try the plain language summary out on someone not connected to the project. Avoid dehumanising words like 'individuals' or 'one' and jargon like 'symptom burden'.

Ln 84: please add missing reference

Ln 270: 'overwhelmingly positive' - qualify and temper to note that this and affects in paper were observed or reported.
Finally the paper could be strengthened with some small additions:

1. Explain the approach of incorporating a participant in this paper and not anonymising.

2. What are the limitations to Photovoice? What is known from evaluations of the method?

3. Can you give specific examples of knowledge transferred using it which was omitted from past work?

4. Did you capture feedback from health professionals and researchers who took part in process? Just to understand the benefits and any issues with this method.

Congratulations on this work and taking the time to write it up. I feel it will be very useful to others.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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