

BEME Progress Report

Title of Project: A Systematic Review of the Approaches to Multi-Level Learning in the General Practice Context: A Realist Synthesis

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Date: 16th May 2017

Update since our last report in June 2016:

June 2016:

- We had identified 14 articles from our original literature search of published journal articles that satisfied our inclusion criteria.
- A further 2 articles that appeared to be relevant, but which were not identified by the original search, were opportunistically identified by a team member.

June - July 2016:

- Discussions with librarian. Search strategy expanded and checked to ensure these 2 articles are captured in the search. E.g. Search strategy modified by inclusion of additional search terms (registrar OR registrar* OR resident OR resident*). However, a greater number of hits were found, and the revised search, whilst including the two mentioned articles, did not detect all of the articles identified by the first search, already deemed (by title and abstract) to satisfy the study's inclusion criteria.
- A title and abstract review of the abovementioned 2 articles resulted in only one meeting our inclusion criteria. This article was added to our list of 14 eligible articles, making a total of 15.
- Further search strategies were made, but with similar issues to those of the 2nd search strategy. As a result of the over sensitive 2nd search strategy, and its inability to detect many of the already identified relevant published articles, it was decided to instead proceed to checking the references of the already included articles, to see if this identified the one additional reference, along with others that may be relevant.
- In the meantime, a team member opportunistically identified a recently published article (2016). It was assessed as being eligible for inclusion upon independent review of its title and abstract by 2 team members, and added to our list of included articles.

October – November 2016: Checking the reference lists of the articles already considered eligible for inclusion in our review.

- A list was compiled of all the references included in the 16 articles already deemed to meet the project's inclusion criteria. (n = 365 references not excluding duplicates).
- Reference titles were allocated and reviewed independently by two team members.
- Responses received by all team members by end of November 2016.

January – April 2017:

- Excel spreadsheet compiled of reference articles whose titles were deemed to be relevant or possibly relevant by one or both reviewers (n = 192).
- Removal of duplicate articles (n=72), those already identified and excluded following the initial literature search (n = 9), and those already identified as eligible (n= 9), left a total of 102 articles remaining.
- Endnote library file created containing the titles and abstracts of the 102 references. This will shortly be finalised, with references then being allocated to dyads of team members to assess whether inclusion criteria are satisfied.
- It is noted that the reference list includes both of the two additional articles identified opportunistically by team members.

April/ May 2017:

- Internet searches for key policy documents and grey literature has commenced. Our support librarian has provided assistance with suggested search strategies.
- Hand searching titles of articles of appropriate journals in general practice and medical education, over the past 10 years has commenced.

A list was compiled of the journals publishing the 16 articles already considered eligible for inclusion. This list is guiding the selection of journals for hand searching of titles; 3 journals have each published 3 or more of the included articles: Australian Family Physician, BMC Medical Education, and Education for Primary Care. Hand searching of Edu Prim Car Education for Primary Care has commenced.

Estimated time of completion:

We are committed to completing the project, and believe that it is feasible to do by the end of this year. We request a further extension until end of December 2017.