

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

## ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	Characterizing the gut microbiome in Veterans with Gulf War Illness: A protocol for a longitudinal, prospective cohort study
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Keating, Julie; Shaughnessy, Catherine; Baubie, Kelsey; Kates, Ashley; Putman-Buehler, Nathan; Watson, Lauren; Dominguez, Nadia; Watson, Kal; Cook, Dane; Rabago, David; Suen, Garret; Gangnon, Ronald; Safdar, Nasia

This article was not externally reviewed at BMJ Open. Protocols that have been independently assessed prior to submission to BMJ Open are usually fast-tracked to publication on the grounds that further substantial changes will not be possible. This independent assessment will usually be external, independent review for both a substantial grant award from a non-commercial or government funder and ethics approval.