Author’s response to reviews

Title: Process evaluation for complex interventions in primary care: understanding trials using the normalization process model

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear BioMedCentral Editorial Team

Thank you for letting us have the reviewers’ comments on this paper. We are most grateful to them for their careful and critical reading of the paper.

1. Professor Campbell makes a number of generous comments about the the normalization process model and the utility of this paper. We have made the minor textual corrections that she notes.

2. An anonymous reviewer is also supportive of the paper, and regards it as 'exceptional'. This reviewer draws to our attention a large number of minor textual corrections and we have amended the paper accordingly.

3. Professor Michie is supportive of the paper but asks for more information about how "interactional workability" and "relational integration" are operationalized empirically - and how are they assessed? (This is given as both a major and a minor modification.) This is an important methodological question, but we are not sure that this paper is the place to answer it. First of all the paper is already very long (in excess of 7000 words), and is intended to illustrate the model in use rather than unpack it as a problem of research technique. Second, some of us (TLF, CRM, FSM and others) will shortly be submitting a methodology paper that deals with operationalizing the model in detail, as part of the development of a structured research instrument for assessing the readiness of organizations to employ new health technologies. Professor Michie will probably be asked to review that paper too, since she seems to be getting everything else that we write on this topic!

An amended manuscript is attached. We hope that these responses are satisfactory and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours truly

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