Reviewer's report

Title: Implementing chlamydia screening: what do women think? A review of the literature

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2006

Reviewer: Mariam Chacko

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have conducted an important study involving a thorough literature review, and also by using a theory-based approach to a proposed prevention program. Overall, the recommendations based on the Theory of Planned Behavior (TBP) model enhance the current literature on program implementation. The tables and figures are very reader-friendly.

The role and utilization of the TPB model when conducting the thematic analysis is not clear. The paper suggests that a sequential process was applied. Thus, if the thematic analysis was conducted without parallel understanding and application of factors/concepts in the TBP’s constructs, then potentially valuable information applicable to the model could have been missed.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Background:
â€¢ To justify development of an appropriate and effective chlamydia screening program in Australia, the epidemiology of chlamydia infection in that country should be provided in this section.
Methods:
â€¢ Second paragraph should expand on thematic analysis by describing the selection process of papers, and the process of identifying main and recurrent themes on women’s views. For instance whether: a random or systemic selection of articles for each member was conducted; number/percent articles read by each member; definitions and validation of identified themes was clarified among team member via group consensus.
â€¢ The process followed by the team to compare their analysis and apply it to the TPB model should be described. Lack of a team approach would greatly limit application of data to the model. Interpretation of data can be a challenge.
â€¢ Additional comments on the TPB model are in the “General” comments section.
â€¢ Was there an expert/consultant in the team to assist with the TPB model when there was no consensus?

Results:
â€¢ In the section “Synthesizing the findings using TPB” in Figure 2 “Intention” is an integral part of the TPB. The term should precede “Behavior” in the Figure.
â€¢ Additional information should be added to the TPB figure. For example “providing women with a sense of control over testing is not listed in Figure 2.
â€¢ Were any elements in each construct missing or with inadequate data? If so this should be stated.

Limitations:
â€¢ The authors consider the following as limitations: more than half of the studies looked at the views of women under age 25 years, and more than half of the studies participants were black. Based on the epidemiology of chlamydia infection in the U.S and UK these are not limitations. The authors need to describe/expand on these comments in the context of the epidemiology of chlamydia in Australia.

Recommendations:
â€¢ Much of the information in the “Conclusion” section should be in his section.

Conclusions:
â€¢ While the proposed components of prevention programs in Australia are helpful, do the authors recommend any further research on the subject? In the context of the epidemiology of chlamydia in Australia, should any further research be conducted to learn what women think about chlamydia screening in that country.
â€¢ Is it possible that aboriginal groups in urban, rural and remote areas may have a unique point of view on the subject? The information obtained might critically impact the efficacy of a program.
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No