Reviewer’s report

Title: The development of a theory-based intervention to promote appropriate disclosure of a diagnosis of dementia

Version: 1 Date: 22 August 2007

Reviewer: Marie-Pierre Gagnon

Reviewer’s report:

General
This paper reports on an ongoing trial to develop an intervention to improve the disclosure of dementia based on behaviour change theories. Complementary information about this project (study protocol and qualitative data) can be found in related publications. The contribution of the paper is indeed important since there are very few publications that describe the detailed process of starting from a set of behavioural components to develop a specific intervention. As the authors mention, there is a lack of a generalisable taxonomy by which to characterise interventions aimed at changing health professionals’ behaviours. This paper provides a rare example of a detailed “implementation modelling experiment”, making it an important contribution to the field of implementation sciences.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
On page 7, last paragraph, authors state: we also added exploratory items on perceived roles within the teams because these may influence intention to perform disclosure behaviour. What is the theoretical rationale for that?
On page 13, 5th line, change “and” to “or”.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
It would be easier to follow the seven steps of developing a theory-based intervention if they were numbered in their label in the text, e.g. Step 1: Specification of the target behaviours

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests