Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing a CONSORT Extension for Interventions in Criminology, Education, Psychology, Public Health, and Social Work

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Reviewer: Rebecca Armstrong

Reviewer’s report:

This is an important documentation of the development of a CONSORT extension for interventions in public health, psychology, social work, criminology, and education.

The importance of this project is clearly documented in the paper. The introduction (para 1) focuses on scientists not adopting the guidelines mainly due to objections. Is this really the main reason? The paper goes on to describe other reasons which I feel are equally compelling. The wording is similar on page 6 para 2 and so I think this could be altered (i.e. there are likely to be a range of reasons).

The two sections on internal and external validity cover the issues missing in CONSORT well. However, there is no clear identification of the purposes of these sections. I think the authors should consider a linking statement before internal validity. I think the external validity paper would benefit from considering Wang et al: http://heapro.oxfordjournals.org/content/21/1/76.abstract

Developing a new consort extension - this discussion is generally fine but it would be useful to have some more information about how people will be involved in the stages of the project. The authors describe engagement with a range of stakeholders but I am not clear how they will be recruited. Given that there will be a consensus meeting presumably in the UK I wondered whether the team had considered the equity issues i.e. how will the process engage those from LMICs?

The conclusion is good but I wondered if the authors could make a comment on the application of this extension to CONSORT more generally. That is, there may be issues that emerge that are important to all trials that are not considered in CONSORT.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests