Reviewer’s report

Title: The Translation Research in a Dental Setting (TRiaDS) Programme Protocol.

Version: 2 Date: 12 February 2010

Reviewer: Helen V Worthington

Reviewer’s report:

This is an excellent protocol for an exciting project which has been well considered by the research team. I only have a few suggestions which I have outlined below; all are considered Discretionary Revisions:

• The text mentioned the public and patient but much of the process does not involve patients - see Table 3. I feel this is an omission – aren’t the patients stakeholders in this?

• It would help future researchers, managers, and policy makers to have an estimate of the costs and benefits for each activity. There is a cost of the data collected, either routine or bespoke, to make the decisions and for different interventions will have different costs. Some outcomes such as preventing death will be have greater benefit than others.

• In Table 2 I think its is important to show that these selection criteria have been identified a priori rather than depending on the guidance topics covered so far.

• On page 10 the first question may need rewriting. I do not think variation is the key issue here. Variation in practice could exist and all be beneficial. Alternatively there could be no variation with overall poor practice for everyone.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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