Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 14 February 2010

Reviewer: Richard Baker

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is a protocol, setting out plans for a major programme in a defined clinical field. There are no major problems with the paper, but some revisions would be helpful in improving the clarity of the paper for readers. TRiaDS has a number of interesting and innovative features that deserve reporting. The focus on dentistry at national level is one of these; the idea of using 'off-the-shelf' interventions in some circumstances is interesting, and this highlights the process of the systematic planning of interventions. All too often, implementation is an occasional event rather than part of a systematic scheme.

Minor essential revisions

1. The opening of the background could usefully set out in a sentence what the paper is about, rather than launching immediately into an overview of issues in implementation. The aims of TriaDS are given later, but spelling out the aims of the paper would bring some focus from the start.

2. Information on the timing of the initiatives is needed. The launch of SDCEP in 2004 is reported, but the date for initiation of TRiaDS is not. The launch date details would help the reader understand what is likely to be been achieved thus far, and what is to come.

Discretionary revisions

1. The background gives a general overview of implementation. Much of this is likely to be familiar to Implementation Science readers, and might usefully be condensed. The space gained could be used to enhance the emphasis on the issues important for dentistry.

2. Little is said about implementation / translation initiatives in dentistry in the past, or in different countries. Some brief consideration of past work in dentistry specifically might be considered. There could also be some comment on the peculiar challenges to implementation in general dental practice. The structure of dental services in Scotland is described, and some discussion of how TRiaDS is particularly suited to this context would be worth including.

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