Reviewer's report

Title: The e-Health Implementation Toolkit: Qualitative evaluation across four European countries

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2011

Reviewer: James Cornford

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision

This is an interesting paper that reports on a qualitative evaluation of the take up and use of an e-Health Implementation Toolkit across a range of northern European contexts. The toolkit is largely based on Normalisation Process Theory (NPT), a middle range theory which seeks to, among other things, explain how certain practices become implemented or 'normalised' while others don't. The methodology adopted in the evaluation sometimes appears to be implicitly, but not explicitly, informed by NPT, focusing on issues such as the useability and workability of the toolkit. The paper also makes reference to realistic evaluation, but does not reference or expand on this concept. The lack of an explicit theoretical framework for the evaluation severely limits the general usefulness of the paper. The availability of NPT as a suitable theory, and one that can be used for evaluation, makes this omission surprising. A much more explicit consideration of the toolkit from its own perspective – as it were – would considerably strengthen the wider value of the paper for Implementation Science readers and could shift the paper from one of passing interest to those with closely related research interests to being a paper with importance in the field.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'