Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing implementation difficulties in tobacco use prevention and cessation counselling among dental providers

Version: 10 Date: 28 January 2011

Reviewer: Jill Francis

Reviewer's report:

I have read the updated manuscript and the authors' responses to reviewers' comments. I thank the authors for going to considerable lengths to revise the paper as suggested. I think the paper makes an important contribution to the field and suggest only minor discretionary revisions, listed below.

1. A new objective has now been added, which is to "uncover the possible underlying structure of the theoretical domains". This succeeds in making the factor analysis a more coherent part of the paper, but I am still unclear as to the rationale for this objective. It would help if the introduction could include an argument about why 12 (or 10) domains is too many and how a smaller number of dimensions would make the framework more usable or theoretically robust.

2. My re-reading of the manuscript and attached files leads me to suggest that a native speaker of English may be able to edit the wording of some of the text and particularly the list of questionnaire items. As the questionnaire is very likely to be used by researchers as a template for other investigations based on the theoretical domains, the authors may wish to be completely happy with the wording. (e.g. "6Ks", "assess a patients").

3. I thank the authors for adding the correlation table - but my suggestion was made simply because it is good practice to report the correlations between variables that are analysed in a factor analysis in the same way that descriptive statistics are reported prior to a 'compare means' analysis. I do not feel it is necessary to interpret the correlation table as an analysis in its own right.

4. It may be helpful to readers if the Discussion section makes more of the important point that previous research has used the theoretical domains to guide interview studies and this is (one of the) first studies to report a quantitative (and therefore testable) approach to the identification of implementation difficulties.

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Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests