Reviewer's report

Title: Uncovering middle managers' role in healthcare innovation implementation

Version: 2 Date: 13 January 2012

Reviewer: Hector Rodriguez

Reviewer's report:

The authors did an excellent job of responding to the initial comments and concerns.

Major Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
None

Discretionary Revisions

One lingering issue in my mind is how we take these ideas from theory to measurement. When I mentioned survey-based assessments, I was not suggesting that you analyze anything empirically. I was trying to understand the implications and priorities for measuring middle manager's "footprint" on important implementation outcomes. It remains unclear how the idea of "middle manager" resonates with staff in various organizations (hierarchical vs. flat) and this will be important when assessing construct validity for any measures that are developed in the future. A good case is made for being attentive to middle manager influences on implementation and I understand if the authors want to keep focused on theory development.

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