Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical guidelines contribute to the health inequities experienced by individuals with intellectual disabilities

Authors:

Craig A Melville (Craig.Melville@glasgow.ac.uk)
Lindsay A M Mizen (lmizen@nhs.net)
Marjorie L Macfie (marjoriemacfie@hotmail.com)
Linda Findlay (Linda.Findlay@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)
Sally-Ann Cooper (Sally-ann.Cooper@glasgow.ac.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Professor Martin Eccles
Co-Editor in Chief
Implementation Science

Dear Professor Eccles

**Manuscript Title: Clinical guidelines contribute to the health inequities experienced by individuals with intellectual disabilities**

We would like to apologise for the errors made in the first submission of this paper. These have been addressed as below:

1. We can confirm that we would like this manuscript to be considered for publication in Implementation Science.
2. The author order on the manuscript, and on the submission system have been amended so they are now both identical.
3. We have now removed the author titles from the suffix fields in the submission process.
4. We have one additional file we would like to include in our submission, and this has been uploaded at the relevant part of the submission process.
5. The manuscript has been carefully proof read and amended.

We believe that the manuscript is suitable for publication in Implementation Science as it is of direct relevance to the systematic uptake of clinical research findings and other evidence based practices into routine clinical care. Internationally, clinical guidelines are promoted as a method to support evidence based care, and improve the quality and effectiveness of healthcare. However, as discussed in the manuscript, clinical guidelines may be contributing to the health inequities experienced by disadvantaged groups. Given the significant resource dedicated to the development and implementation of clinical guidelines internationally, we believe that examining the impact that guidelines have on health inequities could improve the quality of healthcare.

The study reported in the manuscript makes use of an equity lens in order to systematically examine whether clinical guidelines may be contributing to the health inequities experienced by individuals with intellectual disabilities. Although we used the equity lens to examine clinical guidelines in relation to the health of persons with intellectual disabilities, the findings and recommendations are applicable to all the disadvantaged groups encompassed in the PROGRESS-PLUS framework.

There are several reasons why we believe the manuscript is suitable for publication in a general journal rather than a specialist intellectual disabilities journal. As described above, the findings in the manuscript are relevant to disadvantaged groups, beyond individuals with intellectual disabilities. The clinical guidelines included in the study are relevant across the
majority of health specialities, and cut across primary and secondary care, and the manuscript is therefore of relevance to the broad readership of Implementation Science. Finally, since the study is looking at the impact upon health inequities of general clinical guidelines, rather than specific intellectual disabilities guidelines, we believe the manuscript would be better placed in a general journal, such as Implementation Science.

We would be happy to provide any further information required and hope it is possible for this manuscript to be considered for publication in Implementation Science.

Thank you for your help with the submission of this manuscript.

Yours sincerely

Dr Craig Melville
Honorary Consultant in Learning Disabilities Psychiatry
Senior Lecturer in Learning Disabilities Psychiatry