Author's response to reviews

Title: Discriminant content validity of a Theoretical Domains Framework questionnaire for use in implementation research

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Professor S. Michie

Editor, Implementation Science

Subject: Revisions manuscript

Dear professor Michie,

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript ‘Discriminant content validity of a Theoretical Domains Framework questionnaire for use in implementation science’, for resubmission to Implementation Science.

The suggestions of the reviewer were very helpful, for which we would like to express our gratitude. Below we address the reviewer’s comments and describe in detail which changes have been made to the manuscript.

Looking forward to your reply,

On behalf of the co-authors,

Yours sincerely,

Johanna M. Huijg

Co-authors:
  Winifred A. Gebhardt
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Revisions

Reviewer 1

Comments:
1. The authors have responded to my previous comments and this manuscript will be of wide interest to readers working with the Theoretical Domains Framework.

We would like to thank the reviewer for providing us with positive feedback regarding the revised version of the manuscript.

2. I would ask though that the authors refer to two papers that report the development of questionnaires to measure the domains of the TDF. The latter is particularly relevant because, like your own work, it attempts to develop a questionnaire which generalises beyond one specific behaviour.


In line with the reviewer’s comment we now refer to Taylor, Parveen et al. (2013; reference 36) in the introduction of the revised manuscript, see tracked changes page 5/6:

“The framework has been used in a number of studies and was demonstrated to be useful for the development of qualitative [32,33] and quantitative [34–36] measurement tools to assess potential implementation behavior determinants. However, factor analysis implied that only one out of these three questionnaires was able to measure the theoretical domains independently [36]. Furthermore, the questionnaires were developed to assess determinants of specific implementation behaviors in specific settings (i.e., tobacco use prevention and smoking cessation in dental health care [34], smoking cessation in maternal care [35], and different types of patient safety behaviors in hospitals [36]) and internal consistency reliability was low [34] or could be improved [35,36].”

And we refer to both papers (reference 36 and 62) in the discussion section, see tracked changes page 23:

“We have developed a TDF-based questionnaire in both English and Dutch able to discriminately assess the majority of domains. For the first time, items have been operationalized to assess TDF domains using theoretical constructs within each domain and these items were judged to be either pure measures of the domain, or else also measuring other domains. Our findings provide an additional level of validation for the content of the TDF: not only do judges agree about the constructs within each domain and the domain structure as demonstrated by Cane et al. [37], but the majority of TDF domains have now been shown to be largely discriminately measurable. These results correspond with Taylor et al. [36,62] who found good discriminant validity of TDF domains in a questionnaire measuring influences on patient safety behaviors [36]
and in the Determinants of Physical Activity Questionnaire [62]. While Taylor et al. [36,62] used specific items (i.e., related to a specific application), our items are generic and allow for application within a range of different contexts in which implementation research takes place. In summary, the development of our questionnaire provides important evidence of content validity and is a first step towards the development of a valid and reliable questionnaire to measure TDF-based factors underlying health care professionals’ specific implementation behaviors.”