Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1  Date: 2 August 2013

Reviewer: Lou Atkins

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper reporting the development of a questionnaire based on the 14-item TDF and brings uniformity to questionnaire items using the ‘TACT’ principle.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Background (page 4, 2nd para) – I suggest fortifying the point about ‘many’ advocating using theory to understand an implementation problem as a first step in intervention design. I suggest citing guidance such as 2008 MRC Guidance on designing and evaluating complex interventions which advocates theory identification or development in the intervention development phase.

2. Background (page 5, 3rd para) as a main conclusion of the paper is that the ‘12-domain original version might be more applicable in developing a TDF-based questionnaire’ I would make clear how Cane’s 14 domain version differs from the original.

3. Methods (Materials, page 7) - ‘Constructs within domains were selected based on their relevance in a qualitative [38] and a Delphi study [39] on factors influencing the implementation of PA interventions in primary health care’ Could the authors provide one or two lines more on the methods for selecting the constructs?

4. Results (Judges’ expertise in the use of domains) – Could the authors clarify whether any of the judges rated their expertise in any domains as 1 (‘layman’ i.e. no expertise) and if so how they addressed this?

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:

No competing interests.