Author's response to reviews

Title: The stages of implementation completion for evidence-based practice: Protocol for a mixed methods study

Authors:

Lisa Saldana (lisas@oslc.org)

Version: 3 Date: 6 March 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
March 5, 2014

Dear Dr. Foy,

Thank you for your initial review of manuscript 1292271491121090, “The Stages of Implementation Completion: Study Protocol.” I appreciate your comments and am hopeful that I have adequately addressed your critique.

1) The first and, for you, relatively major issue is the word count. This currently stands at over 8000 words. We only accept manuscripts of such length in exceptional circumstances. In your case, I request that you would revise and edit the manuscript down to less than 6000 words. You can make use of ‘additional files’ as appendices to make supplementary material accessible.

Response: I have shortened the text of the manuscript with a combination of editing down text (including eliminating two tables that were not essential), and making use of supplementary materials as you have suggested. Supplementary materials are now provided in the form of two Appendices. Appendix A provides Table 1. Appendix 2 provides the outcomes related to the psychometric properties of the original version of the measure, which was previously included as part of the preliminary studies. The word count for this revised manuscript is 5,986 words.

2) Secondly, the manuscript title should ideally state the study design, e.g. “The stages of implementation completion for evidence-based practice: protocol for a mixed methods study.”

Response: The manuscript title has now been changed to that suggested.

3) Thirdly, I thought that there were a couple of overstatements in the text which I think need a little toning down.

Response: A careful edit was conducted and the tone of multiple statements were limited, and in some cases deleted altogether. For example “Little is known” (located in first paragraph) is now changed to “There is still much to be learned.”

I am hopeful that these changes have adequately addressed your concerns. Please let me know if additional changes are recommended for this protocol to meet the standards of Implementation Science. I look forward to your review of this resubmission. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Saldana, PhD
lisas@oslc.org