Reviewer's report

Title: Implementing a best-practice model of gestational diabetes mellitus care in dietetics: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Maree Johnson

Reviewer's report:

This is generally a well written manuscript that reports upon the implementation of nutritional therapy model of care introduced to two regional health services.

This paper reflects on the evaluation of the implementation while the authors propose that outcomes are assessed elsewhere. An explicit statement about these should be provided for readers to access these findings elsewhere.

The introduction to the paper could be improved by a brief description of the extent of the problem of gestational diabetes and the key role that dietitians play in management. This could be followed by a description of MNT and then a statement about the implementation of the model.

The implementation model needs defining initially (theory and constructs with definitions), rather than allowing it to emerge throughout the paper implicitly.

The first paragraph could end with a statement about the focus of this paper and why.

Full stop on page 4 line 16 is recommended. A hub-spoke model is proposed but needs a specific direct application with the sites in this study.

Line 21 remove This [facilitated] implementation approach...

A full description of the Model of Care should be provided either within the introduction or within the methods section to inform the reader prior to reviewing the results. If published then a brief overview with the reference would be sufficient.
Methods section needs further detail of the recording and transcription approaches taken, the approach to analysis, ?? thematic analysis (Reference) etc. The relevance of 'Core' members was unclear to this reviewer.

Results: Table describing Sites may breach anonymity given the small numbers suggest embed into the text.

Please consider the order of the quotations within the various themes. Some improvement may be possible here.

Discussion: Much is made of the theory-driven approach to implementation but no theory was ever presented. Some detail of the description of the implementation theory and key constructs within the introduction, and then bringing your results together with the theory/constructs would greatly enhance the value of this study to the readers.

Within the Abstract and within the conclusions there is reference to a evidence-based decision making tool. I remained unclear as to what that was.

This is a very important study relating to implementation of change within regional service. Consider adding the design to the title.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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