Reviewer’s report

Title: Out of Sync: A Shared Mental Models Perspective on Policy Implementation in Healthcare

Version: 0 Date: 07 May 2019

Reviewer: Joseph Keebler

Reviewer's report:

I would have like to have seen a quantitative aspect to the data. A few comments which support the hypothesis can be chosen from the data and presented within a paper to illustrate the discrepancy between the SMMs of various individuals, but if there is no quantitative component you cannot really describe the bigger picture. I would have liked to have to have seen at least frequency counts of survey data, or better yet, a thematic analysis of semi-structured interview responses. What I gathered from this paper is that the interview process was unstructured, and therefore the information received from each participant varied significantly and may not have been comparable. Though I believe SMMs play a large role in the health policy process, I believe the methodology of this paper leaves much to be desired, and lacks certain scientific elements which would increase the legitimacy of the findings.

I also think that this is a novel application of SMM's and that the authors might need to sure up the writing a bit as they step into this novel territory. I commend them for seeing a larger picture here but I think the article would greatly benefit from a clearer connection of SMMs to quality improvement. I feel like the article doesn't really establish the theoretical basis for applying SMMs in this way. Not that it's a bad idea but that the implementation isn't entirely clear.

Level of interest
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An article of limited interest

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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