Reviewer’s report

Title: To what extent can behaviour change techniques be identified within an adaptable implementation package for primary care? A prospective directed content analysis

Version: 0 Date: 02 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Byron Powell

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript, which provides an incredibly systematic approach to developing an adaptive implementation package for primary care. I applaud the authors for their thorough and thoughtful approach, and believe that this manuscript will be a great service to the field by demonstrating methods to: 1) select high priority clinical guidelines or interventions, 2) select practical "delivery mechanisms", 3) identify and prioritize implementation determinants, 4) link determinants to behavior change techniques, and 5) report interventions using established reporting guidelines (in this case TidIER). Bravo! I have only a few suggestions for improvement, which I view as largely discretionary.

1) While Figure 1 provides a nice overview of the processes described in this paper, it might be nice to have a table that provides a bit more expanded, plain language summary of the various steps in this process. This table could include references to previous studies (e.g., the interview study), and could actually extend to steps beyond this study (e.g., the RCTs and process evaluations described). Some of the language in this paper that focuses on TDF and BCTs can be quite technical, and providing this type of table could help readers who are less familiar with these frameworks and taxonomies. Furthermore, this type of table would be a nice summary of the scope of this research effort from start to finish, and provide a nice signal to readers to watch out for the results of the trial(s) and other subsequent publications.

2) Could the authors provide any information about the feasibility of the methods they describe, and any concrete recommendations for when and where they might be appropriate?

3) Can more details be provided about how the authors are approaching the measurement of key determinants (i.e., are these studies being designed in a way that they will be able to tell if the BCTs that they have selected are actually addressing the proposed determinants)?

Level of interest
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An exceptional article
Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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