Reviewer's report

Title: A realist process evaluation within the Facilitating Implementation of Research Evidence (FIRE) cluster randomised controlled international trial: an exemplar

Version: 0 Date: 07 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Ann McKillop

Reviewer's report:
This is an exceptional article of value to implementers and researchers to inform not only the process of implementation but also novel, exemplar methods for realist evaluation within a RCT. Two aspects of the manuscript could be strengthened. Readers not familiar with the FIRE trial have to wait until pg 9 line 54 to realize that it is about urinary incontinence in a residential care setting. Earlier mention of the focus and settings of the RCT would help readers to better understand the facilitation/implementation context this article. Secondly, I think more could be discussed about the unexpected lack of differences found in CMOs between the two types of facilitation A vs B, especially given the difference in philosophy, delivery and intensity of these two types of implementation. I congratulate the authors on this important work.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:
An exceptional article

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal