Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Costs of implementing and sustaining enhanced collaborative care programs involving community partners

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 08 Jan 2019

**Reviewer:** Ramzi Salloum

**Reviewer’s report:**

This manuscript reports on the costs of implementation enhanced collaborative care programs for treating depression in primary care with collaborations from community-based organizations. Implementation costs are not usually reported, yet they are crucial to decision making. Therefore, this study contributes to the literature by reporting on a comprehensive costing evaluation of its program, with special focus on the activities and costs associated with the planning phase of implementation.

The concept of sustainment is included in the title of the manuscript and it is mentioned as a distinct phase early in the text. However, this study does not seem to focus on sustainment costs, given (1) that they are not reported separately, and (2) the short time horizon of this study. This needs to be clarified throughout the manuscript. Furthermore, the short time horizon and the limited number of sites with complete data diminish the significance of this manuscript.

Additional Comments:

Page 5, line 104 - Would it be possible to include as an appendix the template for the detailed spreadsheet or what was collected in the spreadsheet? It is unclear whether this level of detail is captured in the Tables.

Page 6, lines 122-123 - this suggests that there were three periods observed in the study (planning, implementation, and sustainment). However, only two were presented in the results (e.g., in Table 3, results are reported by Planning and Implementation Phases only). Can this point be clarified?

Page 8 Results/Site Overview - This section could be improved with a discussion of the scale of operations at each site. Further, it would be interesting to know how implementation costs varied with the size and capacity of each site.

Table 1 - clarify in the title that these are patient demographics.

Tables 2 and 3 - a footnote should be added to explain incomplete data.

Table 3 - it would be useful to add the length/time period for each phase by site.
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