Reviewer’s report

Title: Description of complex interventions: analysis of changes in reporting in randomised trials since 2002

Version: 0 Date: 26 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Riaz Agha

Reviewer’s report:

The authors set out to assess whether descriptions of multicomponent non-pharmacological interventions evaluated in randomised trials are improving. They looked trials in two time periods around the publication of the CONSORT NPT statement.

The research questions are important and the methods used to answer those questions are appropriate. The conclusions are supported by the data and methods.

I have some minor comments

1). Can the authors explain more why they feel things are improving?

2). Any different between CONSORT endorsers and non-endorserers?

3). Is there any correlation with impact factor?

4). Why are protocols still not being published?

5). A fuller discussion around what journals and the wider scholarly community can do would be useful. Its now a decade since CONSORT NPT was published, so just raising awareness is not enough. Clear action is needed. For example, one suggestion is to weave reporting guidelines into the electronic submission process for a journal. This has been looked at by our group and results were positive although we are still not quite 100%, you may wish to discuss these:

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1743919117306301


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