Reviewer’s report

Title: Thematic series: The future of pragmatic trials Building Internal Capacity in Pragmatic Trials: A Workshop for Program Scientists at the U.S. National Cancer Institute

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Cory Goldstein

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, Norton and colleagues describe an interactive one-day workshop on pragmatic trials designed to support program scientists—specifically, health science administrators and program directors employed at the U.S. National Cancer Institute—in their roles as researchers and stewards of research funds. Overall, the authors provide an effective template for other research funding agencies who may wish to conduct similar workshops for their research staff.

The article could be improved by removing unnecessary acronyms that make the manuscript difficult to follow; in particular, PD, HSA, FOA, DCP, and DCCPS. Presumably the workshop used the PRECIS-2 tool, so reference to PRECIS version 1 may be removed. RCT is a commonly used acronym, but since it appears only twice (page 7) in the paper this can be removed as well.

The number of participants could be included in the background section on page 6, last full paragraph.

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Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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