Reviewer’s report

Title: Empirical research in clinical supervision: A systematic review and suggestions for future studies

Version: 0 Date: 29 May 2019

Reviewer: Carol A. Falender

Reviewer's report:

Clearly clinical supervision is a distinctly neglected topic. This manuscript is an important addition to the existent (sparse) literature and empirical exploration. The mere fact that so few supervision publications met criteria is data enough! I wish they had referenced the APA Guidelines for Clinical Supervision (2014, 2015) more extensively and inclusively as they represent the zeitgeist of supervision practice and research in the U.S. and are a culmination of the various approaches with a committee composed of most of the research leaders in clinical supervision. That approach, metatheoretical in nature, is important as so many of the studies have been through the lens of CBT, as the authors illustrate in publications that met criteria for inclusion. It would have been very important to consider the guidelines and the components of clinical supervision as a lens. I also wish the authors would address more specifically and emphatically their excellent point that supervisee satisfaction is an inadequate measure of clinical supervision. Confusion of coaching, feedback, and supervision could be more clearly identified and distinguished. The recommendations are interesting but again, more reflective of a fragmented sense of what clinical supervision entails.

This is an interesting manuscript, sad in that clinical supervision is so widely misunderstood. It would be incredibly helpful if the authors could present more of a framework for where the field needs to go to ensure that a study like this would be fruitful in the future. Examples include more specific attention to supervisor competencies, clarity about the actual supervision provided (modality, process), greater attention (as they do indicate) to live observation or video review to ensure the highest duty of the supervisor, protection of the client, a legal and ethical standard that may be generally neglected.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
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Acceptable

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