Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of the Informed Health Choices resources in four countries to teach primary school children to assess claims about treatment effects: a qualitative study employing a usercentred approach

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Sarah Daisy Kosa

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. There was clearly extensive work in developing the educational tool and congratulations on your successes to date. I have some suggestions to improve the reporting of your findings:

In abstract

1. Suggest rewording "People of all ages are flooded with health claims. Many" … health claims can mean something quite different in the insurance context. Maybe could rephrase to mean claims about the efficacy of health interventions or something similar to clarify

2. What does IHC actually stand for?

3. Small note on grammar, there is inconsistent use of the oxford comma: e.g., used here … Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Norway…but not here…. (determining content scope, generating ideas, prototyping, testing, analysing and refining)

Article Summary

1. Few limitations listed

2. Here language changed from 'health claims' in abstract to 'treatments', suggest that perhaps 'health interventions' is what you are looking for? Either way consistency would improve readability

Background

1. First two sentences are uncited. Please provide references to back up statements.

2. References are sometimes before and sometimes are after the periods

3. Just a quick google turned up some primary school resources for improving health choices: https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/healthy+living/healthy+communities/schools/what+can+i+do+as+a+teacher+or+school+to+encourage+healthy+eating+habits+and+to+be+active; so perhaps a more extensive literature review would enhance the background
Methods

1. Use of the CONSORT Extension for Pilot trials would enhance the reporting of the methods particularly

2. Your outcome measures are unclear

3. It appears that you conducted a thematic analysis of qualitative data? Might be helpful to clarify this in your analysis section. Did you collect or analyze any quantitative data?

Results

1. Some of the results read like methods, you are describing what you did, often not the outcomes of what you did.

2. It may be helpful to indicate how often different concerns/ideas were expressed.

Discussion

1. It seems that some of your results are reported here that have not previously been reported on. A lot of the discussion appears to be the thematic analysis of the qualitative findings.

2. Perhaps you could consider a simpler structure for the discussion that would enhance readability and shorten it quite a bit, something like 5 paragraphs: 1) key/most significant findings, 2) how these findings compare to other literature, 3) how these findings could be applied in practice, 4) future directions, and 5) limitations.

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

An article of importance in its field

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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