

## Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Measures for assessing practice change in medical practitioners

### Authors:

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To The Implementation Science Editorial Team:

Thank you for your review of our paper: Measures for assessing practice change in medical practitioners. We have made some alterations to the manuscript and address the reviewers' comments below:

Editors' comments:

Appropriateness of measures:

We do not necessarily agree that on the occasions when a study is assessing implementation strategies to encourage a practitioner to implement a securely evidence based behaviour (e.g. aspirin post MI) that measurement at the level of the patient is a waste of resources. While there may be no further need to accumulate data on the effect of the particular behaviour (e.g. aspirin prescription), whether or not the implementation strategy ultimately reduces mortality may be of interest, given the potential impact of other factors, for example, compliance. We believe that this is an issue worth careful consideration in the design of studies evaluating implementation and hope our documentation of what has been done to date will help researchers consider this issue. We have presented the possible argument for a measure of practitioner behaviour as the ultimate end point, and have strengthened this in the amended manuscript.

Reviewer 1:

Definition and explanation of outcome measure, and implications for validity of frequency counts:

We have attempted to better explain the issue of process measure versus ultimate endpoint in the discussion and the better frame the paper as informing discussion and debate regarding use of outcome measures in implementation research by documenting what has been done to date. We have also highlighted that few of the clinical guidelines implemented in these studies were overtly evidence based.

Discussion of results implications, importance of frequency of use:

We have added some framing of our study in terms of informing discussion and debate about this issue through documenting what has been done to date. We do not intend to make recommendations about which measures are more appropriate, this would only be possible after further research to determine the validity and reliability of the methods used, rather to inform and stimulate thought among implementation researchers on the selection of outcome measures and highlight the difficulties of combining and comparing studies when there is heterogeneity in the outcomes assessed.

Appropriateness of measures:

See above.

Reviewer 2:

We have reworded the suggested sentence in the background and described the categories in the tables for greater clarity.

We look forward to your response; please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind Regards

Sharon Hakkennes and Sally Green