

Reviewer's report

Title: Do self-reported intentions predict clinicians behaviour: a systematic review.

Version: 1 **Date:** 30 May 2006

Reviewer: Paschal Sheeran

Reviewer's report:

General

A wide variety of theories in social and behavioural science propose that people's intentions to act (e.g., 'I intend to exercise') are the most immediate and important predictor of subsequent behaviour. Moreover, accumulated evidence from both correlational and experimental studies supports that idea that changing people's intentions engenders changes in behaviour. The implication for implementation research is that a key precursor of improving practice by health care professionals is changing how respective individuals intend to act. This extremely worthwhile and important review analyses studies that measured both intentions and subsequent behaviour among health care professionals. Findings revealed that there were only 10 studies that met the inclusion criteria. The findings also showed that the level of intention-behaviour consistency was comparable to that obtained in previous reviews among non-health care professional samples.

Overall, I think that the present manuscript addresses an important and under-researched topic, and holds the potential to exert a valuable impact on the field—not least by underlining the need for further studies that assess intention-behaviour relations among health care professionals. The methods (literature search, inclusion criteria) and analysis are rigorous and appropriate. Finally, the manuscript is very well written. The introduction sets up the issues extremely well, and the discussion draws out the implications of the work for future research in a compelling fashion. In sum, this is an extremely good candidate for publication in Implementation Science in my view.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The small number of studies might preclude the type of analysis I have in mind so I offer the following only as a suggestion. I wondered if it would be worthwhile to conduct a weighted least squares regression analysis (controlling for sample size) with effect sizes as the dependent variable and type of measure (0 = self-report, 1 = objective), correspondence, % analysed, and other relevant methodological or study characteristics as the independent variables in order to determine the simultaneous impact of these different moderator variables on intention-behaviour consistency.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.