

Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the black box of quality improvement collaboratives: modelling relations between conditions, applied changes and outcomes

Version: 2 Date: 1 September 2009

Reviewer: Ingrid Nembhard

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions: None. The authors have satisfactorily responded to my previous comments, and I find the paper much improved over the previous version.

- Minor Essential Revisions: On page 6, it would be good if the authors tightened the logic for why organizational support and external change agent support is important/how they operate in this context. For example, the authors could say why "the innovation must match the goals of the management." Better yet, the authors could just define each construct concretely as they did with team organization, and remove everything else e.g., "A second prerequisite is that teams joining the QIC need to gain information and skills that are new to them, otherwise an important argument for joining the QIC is void." Unless a sentence about the skills training provided by change agents is added, this and similar sentences add little to the section.

- Discretionary Revisions: None.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests