

Author's response to reviews

Title: Fostering implementation of health services research findings into practice:
A consolidated framework for advancing implementation science

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Author's response to reviews: see over

Dear Dr. Eccles –

We have addressed the issues you raised and provide a point-by-point response below.

The manuscript needs to be formatted as per our instructions to authors. These should be read in detail and applied. A (not exhaustive) list of required changes are:

Formatting the title page

Writing a structured abstract

No numerals on section headings.

No use of headers, footers or footnotes.

Referring to Additional Files rather than Appendices

>>We have made the formatting changes. One note: we have consistently uploaded a structured abstract with each submission. If this is missing, please let me know.

The paper is entered in the journal system as a "Research Article" - I can see that this best reflects the aim of the work described - but I also think that you could usefully describe the content better using the standard headings of a research article. Your Section 1 corresponds to Background (not Introduction); Section 2 corresponds to Methods; Section 3 and 5 constitute results; Section 6 remains Discussion; Conclusion is a level 1 heading. Section 4 shouldn't be included in the body of the manuscript (see below). You can use relevant sub-headings within these sections in order to help the reader through. However, using this structure will also provide the framework within which to reduce the manuscript length.

>> We have relabeled the sections as requested. Section 4 has been deleted.

Overall the article is too long (12300 words) and contains too many references (120). Although Implementation Science does not offer a formal word length we use 8000 words as our usual maximum - we have only published one article that is longer than this - the reason being that it is too hard work for readers. I appreciate that the process of review has encouraged you to add text to the manuscript but the current length has to be reduced. The article has gone from 5400 words on submission to 12800 and from 59 references to 120. Having reviewed all of the documentation I do not think that you were given editorial license for this level of increase.

>> Yes, we agree this article is quite long. The current version now stands at 7842 which is a 4458 word reduction. This article was quite challenging to write within usual length constraints. After the first round, the section editor and main reviewer asked that we incorporate the individual constructs in the main body of the paper; these were initially in an Additional File. In addition, they requested we add an example study to highlight application of the CFIR. Because of the magnitude of the change, we set up a conference call to confer with the editor more directly about the implications of these changes. These two requests resulted in the much longer (though stronger) version of this paper. In this round of revisions, we have retained the description of each construct but have taken out the example study.

Overall the writing style is exceptionally discursive and a lot of text could be removed without any loss to meaning or content. Many of the sections of what will become the results can have examples (of the

MOVE! Study) or discussive text removed from them. Once you have done this there will then be the issue of what a cut down version of the text adds over and above the content of Table 2. I can't judge that at this point and will need to look at this on the re-submission. It may be that the added value of the cut down text is minimal - in which case you might want to take the longer text as it is currently written and put it into an Additional File and direct the reader to it from the main body of the text.

>> The paper is considerably shorter now. We have gone through and tightened up the writing (even deleting a paragraph in the Discussion). The remaining text in the results section that describes each construct, needs to be retained in the body of the paper. We have taken out the illustrative study (the MOVE! study) and will include this data in a future paper rather than include in an additional file. We have removed Table 2 (the quick reference table that listed constructs with short definitions) from the body of the paper and have included it in an Additional File. Some constructs require the additional discourse because we want to provide clarity in the face of a lack of definitional consensus in the literature (e.g., implementation climate), lack of familiarity of readers to certain constructs (e.g., individual identification with organization), or because of breadth and complexity (e.g., networks and communications).

I need you to get the paper length down by 3000 to 4000 words. In doing this you should make use of the Additional File function (as described in the instructions to authors; note, we do not use Appendices as a term).

>> We have exceeded your targeted reduction (4458 fewer words) and now include 4 additional files.

Section IV breaks up the text and should be included only as an additional file (this will remove 480 words). The references should be divided into those that are central to the paper and those that are optional - these can be included as an Additional file bibliography if you wish to retain them.

>> We have removed Section 4 and reduced the number of references from 120 to 84 (36 fewer references). Reducing references any farther, we feel, will compromise integrity of this overview/synthesis paper of a broad literature.

Like the reviewer and our Associate Editor I don't think Figure 1 adds anything and would like you to remove it.

>> We have taken Figure 1 out of the body of the paper and now include it in an additional file.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further concerns, issues, or questions.

Best Regards –

Laura Damschroder