

ABSTRACT

1. Title:

Measuring Organisational Support for evidence-based practice (EBP)

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3. Key words: EBP, organisational support, measurement, validity

4. Abstract text:

a) Background and aims

Implementation science researchers are calling for improvements to the reliable measurement of constructs thought to be associated with implementation and effectiveness. It is important to have measurement tools that are psychometrically sound as well as practical to use, to measure factors that are understood to influence the adoption of EBPs in practice.

b) Methods

This paper will present an overview of existing measures of one such factor – the types and degrees of support offered by an organisation to support practitioners' use of EBP. The supports an organisation provides to facilitate the use of evidence-based practice (EBP) has been found to influence the uptake and effective implementation of EBPs. Organisational supports for use of EBP may include financial support to access resources, training or conferences, or time allowances to further their knowledge and skills in use of EBPs.

c) Results

The paper will also describe a recent examination of the validity of one such measure – Gregory Aarons' Organisational Support for EBP Scale. Using data collected from a sample of 256 practitioners delivering parenting support in Australia, we will describe the distinct types of organisational support found to be measured by this brief measure of the structures and activities present within an organisation that support the use of EBP.

d) Conclusion

The selection of reliable and valid instruments is essential to our understanding of the mechanisms of effect of organisational activities on the uptake and implementation of EBPs in practice.