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Research Methods & Reporting:

Taking healthcare interventions from trial to practice

Paul Glasziou, Iain Chalmers, Douglas G Altman, Hilda Bastian, Isabelle Boutron, Anne Brice, Gro Jamtvedt, Andrew Farmer, Davina Gherzi, Trish Groves, Carl Heneghan, Sophie Hill, Simon Lewin, Susan Michie, Rafael Perera, Valerie Pomeroy, Julie Tilson, Sasha Shepperd, John W Williams

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Re:Search for co-operation

Paul Glasziou, Professor Chalmers I, Altman DG, Bastian H, Boutron I, Brice A, Jamtvedt G, Farmer A, Gherzi D, Groves T, Heneghan C, Hill S, Lewin S, Michie S, Perera R, Pomeroy V, Tilson J, Shepperd S, Williams JW.

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We are delighted that Lenz & colleagues are planning a database of complex interventions. However, the problem addressed by our paper[1] - of taking treatments from idea to practice - is not confined to complex interventions: a recent review of chemotherapy found missing details in

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Search for co-operation

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In their recent article ¹ Paul Glasziou and colleagues inspiringly outline important aspects related to the planning, publication and systematic review of complex interventions. They conclude with a catalogue of measures to improve the usefulness of research reports.

Glasziou and colleagues certainly are extremely experienced and respected researchers. Thus surprisingly, the article lacks methodological rigor. Which methods were used to search for relevant articles? What were the criteria for inclusion of articles? What is the basis for the authors' conclusions? Astonishingly, numerous relevant publications (e.g. 2-11) were not included some of them even published in BMJ. Is systematic literature searching no longer the prerequisite for a profound scientific discussion? So, let us have a look into the literature. The search term "complex intervention*" retrieves more than 100 reviews in PubMed with more than 20% of them relevant. The issue of "complex interventions" and the challenges related to their development and evaluation has been controversially discussed

since the early 90th of the last century.

Furthermore, Glasziou and colleagues propose that a "stable 'intervention bank' should be established... ". To our knowledge Warsi and colleagues were the first group who proposed, "...to create an electronic clearinghouse for the descriptions of self-management educational programs. This would facilitate testing of interventions by investigators other than the developers of individual programs" 12 .

Dear Paul Glasziou and colleagues, since 2008 we have actively been looking for network co-operation in order to establish a scientific network and database for complex interventions (patient-self-management programs as an example). The research proposal is ready for submission. A number of international network-partners have already subscribed. May we invite you for co-operation?

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Method in the taxonomy development

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Good description of interventions is vital but often neglected. It is encouraging to see Glasziou and colleagues (1) draw attention to the imperative of adequate description of interventions for trial quality and usability. Describing interventions, particularly complex non-

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