

Review of: "Why are there different versions of the COM-B model diagram?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General comments:

This is an interesting paper and one that anyone using, or intending to use, the COM-B model will find informative.

It has a good background which sets out the need for the paper and then goes on to explain the various constructs of the COM-B, giving definitions for each, which is helpful.

Suggested changes:

I think where the paper needs more clarification and research to support it is in the section entitled "existing variants of the COM-B Model"

Each model is discussed in turn, I think each one requires a greater clarification on how they differ, with concrete examples, backed up by empirical research for the reader to refer to for additional information on the when and how to apply the different versions of the models.

Would the authors recommend researchers use a version of the model for a specific purpose? Again this could be developed further to help researchers make this decision about which model to use.

In the concluding paragraph the reader is told to "consider which of the causal links between components to include depending on the use to which the model is being put" This sentence needs to be explained further and some additional information on how and what researchers should base this decision on.

Could the authors provide further guidance on when and where the different models should be used, do they lend themselves better to certain behaviours or circumstances? It is not clear how the different models may impact, if at all, on intervention design.

The authors could try to be more directive in their recommendations around the version of the models and their uses, this would benefit researchers considering implementing a version of the COM-B model.