

New CONSORT guidelines for behavioural interventions

Implications for journals and
societies

CONSORT = Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials

- The CONSORT 2010 Statement helps authors improve RCT reporting in biomedical disciplines via a 25-item checklist and flow diagram.
- New extension of the 2010 Statement for social and psychological interventions: CONSORT-SPI.

Purpose of CONSORT-SPI

The CONSORT-SPI Extension aims to assist

- authors in writing reports of social and psychological intervention RCTs,
- peer-reviewers and editors in assessing such manuscripts,
- readers in critically appraising published articles.

Developing the new guideline

- Systematic review of existing reporting guidelines and reporting quality of social and psychological intervention RCTs.
- Online, international Delphi process to develop a list of potential reporting items to include in the CONSORT-SPI checklist.
- Consensus meeting of experts to choose final checklist items.

The new guideline

- 9 items extended from the CONSORT 2010 checklist plus 1 new item about stakeholder involvement in the RCT.
- Sub-items relate to background and objectives, trial design, participants, interventions, statistical methods, participant flow, baseline data, outcomes and estimation, and funding.

Wide support for CONSORT...

More than 600 journals internationally as well as prominent editorial groups (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the Council of Science Editors, and the World Association of Medical Editors) officially endorse CONSORT.

...should lead to wide support for CONSORT-SPI

As CONSORT-SPI is an official extension, existing support for CONSORT by journals and other organisations should extend to this reporting guideline for interventions under its remit.

How to use/support CONSORT SPI

- Recommend use of CONSORT-SPI in Instructions for Authors.
- Require authors to submit CONSORT-SPI checklists with their papers.
- Register official support on the CONSORT website (<http://www.consort-statement.org/about-consort/endorsement>).