

**Title**

Delivery of an intervention: A framework for the measurement of treatment integrity.

**Keywords**

Treatment integrity, integrity measurements, evidence-based interventions

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**Abstract:**

The field of implementation research is growing and becoming an integral part of outcome studies on effects of (evidence-based) interventions. Therewith the demands on the measurement and reporting of treatment integrity in clinical trials is increasing (Fixsen & Ogden, 2014). Many authors share the opinion that measuring treatment integrity is much needed to be able to point to what the moderators are in the outcome effects and is essential in understanding what adaptations can be made to the intervention without sacrificing effectiveness (Dane & Schneider, 1998; Durlak & DuPre, 2008; Moncher & Prinz, 1991; Perepletchikova & Kazdin, 2005; Sanetti, Gritter & Dobey, 2011; Tennyson, 2009; Weissberg, Kumfer & Seligman, 2003). In a review of adult and child psychotherapy outcome studies Perepletchikova, Treat and Kazdin (2007) found that only 3,5% of the 147 articles met criteria for *adequately* implementing treatment integrity procedures. We hold the opinion that without *adequate* integrity measurements, the actual delivery of the intervention remains unknown and no statements can be made on the association between the intervention and client outcomes.

We conducted a systematic review to evaluate the implementation of treatment integrity procedures in outcome studies of youth interventions targeting behavioral problems. The Implementation of Treatment Integrity Procedures Scale (ITIPS), developed by Perepletchikova, Treat, and Kazdin (2007), was adapted (ITIPS-A) and used to evaluate 32 outcome studies of evidence-based interventions for youths with externalizing behavioral problems. Integrity measures were found to be still rare in these studies. In some cases it was

even highly questionable whether the kind of measurement made, was valid and comprehensive enough to measure the delivery of the intervention as intended (Goense, Boendermaker, van Yperen, Stams, & van Laar, 2014).

Our review provides a framework how to adequately measure treatment integrity in outcome studies. This framework and examples of how evidence-based interventions give content to this, will be presented in the presentation on the Biennial Australian Implementation Conference. The aim of the presentation is to provide the audience with 1) a hands on tool for the implementation of treatment integrity procedures in outcomes studies and 2) guidelines for the development of treatment integrity instruments.

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