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***Clinical Ethics Support Services. How should we evaluate a complex normative intervention?***

Clinical ethics support services (CESS) have been implemented broadly in healthcare. To determine and ensure the quality of these services evaluation research has been hailed as important task. At the same time, there is considerable debate about how to evaluate CESS appropriately. In this presentation I will firstly review ethical and empirical challenges associated with evaluation of CESS. Subsequently I will argue that to be able to evaluate CESS more appropriately it is important to better understand CESS as intervention. To substantiate my argument I will firstly introduce the Medical Research Council's framework for complex intervention research and show how CESS fulfil the requirements of a complex intervention. In a second step I will demonstrate how various normative elements built into (different types of) CESS are relevant for decisions about appropriately evaluating CESS. Based on my analysis I will discuss in how far a better understanding of CESS as "complex normative intervention" may not only contribute to better evaluation research but also stimulates our thinking about what we mean by "good" CESS.

**References:**

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