Project Title

Interpretation Discussion Guide

Using this Guide

- This guide provides structure for a 30 minute - 1 hr discussion that every project team should have after running their analysis, but before they draft their report.

- The goal of this guide is to explicitly separate results (output from the analysis) from interpretation/implications (how we describe the results in a report) and to help project teams provide nuanced trial reports.

- Everyone on the project team should be a part of this discussion, not just the people who have run the analysis.

- The person who has run the analysis can fill out the "Results" slide before the meeting, but the whole team should fill out the "Interpretation" and "Implication" slides together during the meeting.

Results

What is the output of your analysis?

Generating results should include working through the tasks laid out in the data cleaning checklist, including:

❏ Running your prespecified analysis, including any subgroup analyses

❏ Checking for differential attrition and mapping attrition points

❏ Checking for missing data

❏ Considering the distribution of the outcome measure and any other key variables (e.g., covariates)

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Interpretation

What story do your results tell?

Consider:

- Are the results what we expected?

- Did the treatment effect everyone similarly?

- Do we have evidence about the mechanism through which the intervention worked? (i.e., did your Theory of Change hold up)

- Can we rule out other possible explanations for why our treatment would be correlated with out outcome of interest?

- If you were looking at these results from the perspective of participants, would your interpretation change?

Notes

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Implications

What are you going to recommend?

Consider:

- What do we think our partner should do?

- If we were participants, what would we want our partner to do?

- How does this link back to our initial motivation for the project? Can we think of alternative recommendations? Why aren't we recommending them?

- How strongly are we making this recommendation?

- Are there any risks or costs to taking up this recommendation?

Notes

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