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## Summary

In summary, I’ve explained that a lot of medical research is poorly reported, and that this makes it difficult for other researchers to understand, appraise, synthesize, or replicate studies. This, in turn, makes research less useful to patients.

I’ve introduced reporting guidelines, created by the research community with the aim to improve reporting quality. I’ve described the system of tools, websites, people, and policy that has organically grown around reporting guidelines, and I have argued that this system forms a complex behaviour change intervention with the goal of altering what authors write.

I’ve discussed how this system has had only a modest effect on reporting quality, at best. I’ve described how studies exploring modifications to this system are limited because they did not explore barriers thoroughly, and lacked a systematic method to identify options to address those barriers.