

**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Randomised-controlled trial of a web-based dietary intervention for patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus: Study protocol of myDIDeA

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Resubmission of Manuscript for Publication in the BMC Public Health

Dear Editor,

I am re-submitting our manuscript (study protocol) entitled “Randomised-controlled trial of a web-based dietary intervention for patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus: Study protocol of myDIDea” to be considered for publication in your journal.

We have added a paragraph in Page 10 to reflect our response to the reviewer’s comment:

<table>
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<th>Comment</th>
<th>Correction/Rebuttal</th>
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<td>As a protocol for a RCT, this is fine - they've ticked all the expected boxes. My personal view is that this study is unlikely to demonstrate impact because it's yet another example of technological determinism i.e. the assumption that providing a technology will 'cause' a change in behaviour! I have argued elsewhere that we need fewer RCTs and more in-depth qualitative studies of technologies in use. But that's not a reason for not publishing the protocol. Hence as a discretionary revision, perhaps acknowledge the potential limitations of the method?</td>
<td>Although qualitative assessments such as in-depth interview or focus group discussion were not part of this RCT, the outcome evaluation is supplemented by a detailed process evaluation. The process evaluation is measuring program reach, dose delivered, dose received, fidelity and implementation as well as the participants’ satisfaction with the program and acceptability. Collectively, these measures will enable us to draw conclusions about potential program enhancers and barriers if the program were to be delivered in other settings and contexts.</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
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BMC Public Health is an excellent platform for us to share the web-based intervention protocol. The importance given for publication of study protocols will ensure information on our intervention programme planned in Malaysia is disseminated to the scientific community worldwide. Besides, the journal’s policy on publishing study protocols has assisted us to write the protocol in more organised manner.

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to declare that this manuscript has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. All authors have read and are in agreement with the content of the manuscript.

Thank you.

Regards,

AMUTHA RAMADAS