Reviewer’s report

Title: Behavioral and Technological Interventions Targeting Glycemic Control in a Racially/Ethnically Diverse Population: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2013

Reviewer: Andre Pascal A Kengne

Reviewer’s report:

Behavioral and technological interventions targeting glycemic control in a racially/ethnically diverse population: A randomized controlled trial.

Forjuoh and coworkers in this study have used a factorial design to test single and joint effects of two different diabetes self-care interventions on glycemic control in an ethnically diverse population in the US. After 12 months of intervention, they found at best a modest reduction in HbA1c which was consistent across intervention arms and ethnic subgroups.

Major comment

The study is generally well conducted and the resulting manuscript well written. Beside the challenge of conducting such a study to the standard of clinical trials (implementation of blinding procedures in particular), this particular study suffers from a selective high drop-out of participants assigned to one of the interventions (PDA), which in addition to potentially affecting the study result is a major outcome on which the authors should elaborate further and integrate in their conclusions both in the main text and the abstract. That, such a high attrition has been reported by other investigators, likely reflects the importance of accounting for the consumers’ choice in this sort of interventions. The authors may want to elaborate on such a point. Furthermore how was the effectiveness of the training offered to participants assessed? Or the authors just assumed that after completing a training of certain duration, participants will be apt to implement self-care efficiently. What proportion of participants had used a PDA (or a similar device) before the study, and how could this impact on the learning and subsequent use of the device?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

None