Reviewer's report

Title: Information and communication technologies for approaching smokers: A descriptive study in primary healthcare

Version: Date: 11 September 2014

Reviewer: Francine Schneider

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. I miss a clear description/definition of what ICT’s exactly are and why these specific ICT’s (mobile phone, email and internet) were selected for the current study.

2. According to my opinion, additional information on the use of ICT’s and the effects of these ICT’s with regard to smoking cessation is needed. A lot of research has been done in this specific area, but notification of important studies is missing. How are ICT’s used for smoking cessation and what are the effects?

3. A lot of research has already looked into characteristics of users of online interventions, also for smoking cessation. I miss a description of the studies. In addition, do the authors expect that characteristics of users in previous studies might differ from characteristics of people from Spain?

4. I would like to receive more information on the sample size calculation. Where are all the numbers used for this calculation based on?

5. I wonder why the authors decided to categorize people in either using ICT’s or not using ICT’s. According to my opinion, with regard to using ICT’s for smoking cessation, also the level of use might be of great interest. I was also wondering whether the authors included questions on the purpose of ICT use – for which specific things do people use ICT’s? Since this study is solely focused on ICT use, the analyses could be more detailed in order to give more information on use.

6. It might also be interesting to look at which specific ICT is preferred by which specific users. In other, what predicts use of mail, mobile phone or internet among users?

7. In the discussion I miss clear implications of the finding of this study. What are the implications for practice? And for research?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Were the smokers recruited by the health care professionals? How exactly was the procedure? Where they recruited when visiting their health care professional?
2. I would like to receive more information about the measurement instrument. Were all data collected through face to face interview? Or were they collected by using a questionnaire?

3. What is the rationale for including not all previously used variables in the regression analyses?

4. In the discussion, the authors state that they have managed recruit a representative sample of the smoking population. Of which specific population is this sample representative? Are there specific references to add here?

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests