Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of the short message service reminders on patient's medication adherence results of a controlled study to assess the effects of and satisfaction with incoming messages

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2013

Reviewer: Brian Suffoletto

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Title: suggest adding "short-term" and "exploratory" as there does not appear to be an a priori hypothesis and sample size calculation.

2. No abstract was included. Please include.

Background:

3. Overall, needs more concision. PP 1 should summarize of med adherence difficulties in patient populations. PP2 should summarize prior interventions. PP3 should discuss prior interventions using SMS for med adherence (consider adding reference to Suffoletto et al., 2013. A mobile phone text message program to measure oral antibiotic use and provide feedback on adherence to patients discharged from the emergency department.)

4. A priori hypotheses need to be explicitly stated at end of background. i.e. "The primary aim of this study was to determine the effect of SMS medication reminders on number of delayed doses and missing doses of medications. Secondary aim includes determining the satisfaction and demand for an SMS-based intervention."

Methods:

5. How patients were allocated to control and intervention exposure needs to be discussed.

6. Authors need to specify how they assessed and defined delayed or missing doses at baseline (for inclusion) and at follow-up. Please include samples of actual questions used. Are they validated tools?

7. Authors need to clarify whether the SMS system was part of clinical care or research.
8. Please provide actual content of messages.

Results

9. Please specify how many participants came from each hospital.

10. Authors should refrain from using term "drug" as this has different connotations in US. Try "medication"

11. Authors need to specify what medications were used. This is critical and should be available.

Discussion

12. Authors need to discuss limitations more thoroughly. i.e. The problem with med adherence is largely related to long-term medications for chronic diseases. A 7-day interventions will not be relevant to chronic diseases. Also, we need to know about what meds were prescribed and the dosing regimen and length of prescriptions.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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