Reviewer's report

Title: Benefits of a physician-facing tablet presentation of patient symptom data: comparing paper and electronic formats

Version: 2 Date: 15 March 2013

Reviewer: Bernhard Holzner

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The introduction and methods section should be reorganised in order to separate more clearly what is state of research and what has been done within this study. It may be helpful to include a study design section at the beginning of the methods to give an overview over the three experiments (this is currently part of the introduction). Separating background/state of research and methods more clearly is essential to increase readability of the manuscript.

2. As the sample sizes in the experiments are very small we strongly recommend relying on non-parametric statistical tests. You should not use T-tests or ANOVAs for such small sample sizes. For such sample sizes it may be more meaningful to report medians and interquartile ranges (rather than means and SEMs).

3. The results/methods section is not well-organised. It is uncommon to have several methods/results sections in one manuscript (the manuscript is currently structured according to experiment).

4. In the section “Physician interviews” there are no descriptive statistics given (e.g. how many physicians gave what answers concerning the five areas of interest? how many physicians emphasised criticality?).

5. You should not show patient names in your figure 1!!

6. The description of the SUS scores should rather be given in the methods section than in the discussion

7.

- Minor Essential Revisions
1. It may be more informative for the reader to convert the figures 2-4 to a table

2. The title of experiment 3 refers to iPod, I guess you rather meant iPad like in the text below.

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:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'