Author's response to reviews

Title: Evidence-based medicine among internal medicine residents in a community hospital program using smart phones.

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Version: 4 Date: 13 February 2007

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Revised manuscript submission: see over

We want to thank the reviewers and the editor for their attentive review and acceptance of our manuscript. The revisions are outlined below.

1) Abstract- Please elaborate the Background section of the manuscript to place the study in the context of the current knowledge in the field, in addition to stating the aims of the research. Please remember to also update the Abstract details on the submission page.

Authors Response-
We modified the Background section in the Abstract to place the study in the context of the current knowledge in the field and we also stated clearly the aims of the research. This is the revised section: “This study implemented and evaluated a point-of-care, wireless Internet access using smart phones for information retrieval during daily clinical rounds and academic activities of internal medicine residents in a community hospital.”
We did the project to assess the feasibility of using smart phones as an alternative to reach online medical resources because we were unable to find previous studies of this type. In addition, we wanted to learn what Web-based information resources internal medicine residents were using and whether providing bedside, real-time access to medical information would be perceived useful for patient care and academic activities.”

2) Methods- Please document under the Methods section the details of the institutional review board that granted ethical approval for the study.

Authors Response-
We modified this paragraph to specify the steps of the IRB approval: “The study met the requirements of the Research Committee of the Prince George’s Hospital Center; temporary approval was granted on July 14, 2005 and final approval on September 13, 2005.”

3) Acknowledgements - Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study.

Authors Response-
We have included the Acknowledgment section: “This research was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes of Health, the National Library of Medicine and Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications. Funding was also provided by the Internal Medicine Department of Prince Georges’ Hospital Center. We thank the attending physicians and residents of the Internal Medicine Department of Prince Georges’ Hospital Center who participated in this project during the period of July 2005 to February 2006.”