Author's response to reviews

Title: Application of biomedical informatics to chronic pediatric diseases: A systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
April 7, 2009

Editor
BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you very much for the referee reports of our manuscript entitled “Application of biomedical informatics to chronic pediatric diseases: A systematic review”. The comments were very helpful.

Please find enclosed an itemized list of responses along with the revised manuscript.

In our response to the reviewers, we used regular font for the comments/questions by the referees and *italics* for our responses, which are shown immediately following the questions/comments.

We have also made formatting changes requested by the editor.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to submit this manuscript to BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making.

Sincerely,

Joseph Beyene, PhD
Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
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555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1X8 Canada
Referee #1:

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Figure 1: Text in box is not visible “Studies excluded not meeting inclusion criteria (age, study design, intervention) (n=53)"

We have made the boxes around the text bigger and increased font size for the texts. Texts are now visible.

2. Please check to ensure consistency in format for all in-text references.
   Lastname et al. [#]
   - Pg. 4 “Pare et al (8) specifically studied tele-monitoring and Dorr et al (2) combined some of chronic conditions that”
   - Pg. 12: “(David Dorr et al.[2]; Basit Chaudhry et al.[41]; Branko G Celler et al.[42]).”
   - “Guy Pare [8]. Sanders [9]”

We have now gone through the manuscript carefully and formatted the in-text references consistently.
Referee #2:

Discretionary Revisions

Please consider integrating review responses that deal with limitations of the articles being reviewed into the Discussion, perhaps as additional points to be considered in further research.

*We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. We have now added one paragraph in the discussion section (second to last paragraph of the discussion section – on page 13) stating one of the important limitations that came up during the first round revision of our manuscript. We indicated that this can be considered in future research.*
Changes requested by editor:

Could you please carry out the following changes to the format of your manuscript:

Abstract - Abstracts must be structured into Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Please remember to also update the Abstract details on the submission page.

Done.

Introduction - Please rename this section ?Background?.

Changed.

Table and figure placement text ? Please remove this.

Done.

Conflicts of interest- Please rename this section Competing interests.

Renamed.

Figures - It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure cropping guide may be of some help, and can be viewed here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/cropping.

The figure is in Microsoft Word and there is no excessive white space around it.