Author's response to reviews

Title: A randomized controlled trial of telemonitoring in older adults with multiple chronic conditions: the Tele-ERA study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors of Biomedical Central:

We want to thank you for the review and the reviews of referee #1. We have made the changes requested by BMC including formatting the protocol to conform to standards. If this is not acceptable, we are willing to work with you further if needed. We would like to address the comments noted by the editorial staff and the referee.

Referee #1

1) Thank you for the affirmation of our intent
2) The points about replication are well taken by the referee about replication. Our goal with publishing the protocol was to fully explain what steps we went through with the study. We had a goal of explaining how we set up our monitoring process and who was doing the monitoring. Often in small telemonitoring studies, one lacks the details of exactly how they set up monitoring. From a practice perspective, clinicians will likely look at our methods and see if they can use our staffing ratios for clinical telemonitoring. We agree that replication may be challenging given the significant cost and resources of the study.
3) Thank you for your comment
4) Thanks again for your affirmation of our writing.

Editorial Request

1) We have formatted the abstract per BMC guidelines
2) We have moved and expanded the section on IRB approval to the methods section
3) We have included within this section our statement on written informed consent.
4) We have included the competing interests section in the protocol.

Thank you again for your review of our protocol. We believe this will add to the literature and provide a foundation for other work. If there are questions please do not hesitate to call or email.

Sincerely,

Paul Takahashi MD