Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring reasons for non-participation and withdrawal from a randomised controlled trial of telehealth and telecare in England: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 13 June 2012

Reviewer: Lance Brendan Young

Reviewer's report:

The authors addressed all of my concerns with the previous draft, adopting several of my suggestions and ably defending their decisions not to adopt others. I am quite impressed with the authors' work on this study and congratulate them on drafting an important contribution to our understanding of patient adoption of telehealth and telecare technology. My most recent review resulted in four suggestions to enhance the clarity of specific sentences or phrases. I consider these recommendations, "Minor Issues Not for Publication."

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
None

Discretionary Revisions/Minor Issues Not for Publication
1. Participants and Methods, third paragraph: The sentence, “Nineteen people agreed to take part and who withdrew from the trial after joining the intervention armii,” should be clarified. Perhaps the meaning is this: “Nineteen people who withdrew from the trial after joining the intervention arm agreed to take partii.” Relatedly, Endnote ii begins, “One of these 3 withdrew only a couple of weeks after the equipment was installed…” The referenced sentence never mentions 3 participants. The authors should clarify meaning.

2. Participants and Methods, third paragraph: The sentence, “42 out of the 61 declined…” should begin as, “Forty-two out of the 61 declined…”

3. Discussion, sixth paragraph: The sentence beginning, “For example, there is a need for further research to investigate who specific intervention work for…” should be corrected to read, “For example, there is a need for further research to investigate who specific interventions work for…”

4. Conclusion: The final sentence uses the confusing term “greater proximity". Whereas proximity refers to the distance between two things, greater proximity suggests a greater distance—the opposite of the authors' meaning. I suggest replacing the phrase with “closer proximity”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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.
Lance Brendan Young