Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact on healthcare resource use of telemonitoring home care patients with heart failure or chronic lung disease. The TELBIL study

Version: 1 Date: 6 February 2013

Reviewer: Robyn Clark

Reviewer’s report:

This paper presents an important evaluation of telemonitoring heart failure patients from primary care

The report does not present a power calculation and although a detailed methodology paper has been published previously the paper would benefit from including CONSORT criteria for reporting RCTs.

Abstract: The methods section of the abstract does not include details of design. All results should include number percentage (or both) RR 95% CI and p value.

Background: Every sentence in the first 2 paragraphs should be referenced. The background should include details of the trajectory of each disease and expected outcomes for both.

Methods: inclusion criteria should state that these were Adult patients. “The intervention under study” is poor grammar please revise

Please describe how the data was secured

Please give more details of the characteristics and qualifications of the “health professionals” delivering this intervention.

Please provide details of the primary care physician

What was the risk management for this study. Were patients monitored 24/7 or only during business hours.

Usual care is not described

There is no power analysis or rationale for not having power analysis.

No details of how the NNT was calculated

Results: More details on the interpretation of the Charlson index and Barthel index scores.

Sub-analysis by demographic group would be interesting.

Was there a relationship between alerts and outcomes.

Discussion: These patients were very old. This needs to be discussed in more detail in the context of previous research.

Is there a planned cost analysis for this study. Please discuss.

What is different about primary care telemonitoring? Please discuss.
Figure 1: Study Flow should follow CONSORT GUIDELINES
Figure 2: Needs to be reformatted. Remove numbers.
A similar Figure could be presenting analyzing the resource use by diagnostic group
Table 1: Explain “Other” living arrangements
Table 4: Presents very innovative data

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests