Reviewer's report

Title: Multicenter data acquisition made easy

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2010

Reviewer: Elizabeth Sweetman

Reviewer's report:

Overall your paper presents a very beneficial and unique method of data collection in clinical trials. My suggestions are meant to add structure and clarity to your paper as well as improve flow for the readers.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 2, Abstract, Methods and Results Section
   Please consider re-writing the Methods and Results sections of your abstract so that they are consistent with the Methods and Results sections in your paper.

2. Page 3, Background section, paragraph 2
   Please review journal style sheets for referencing websites.

3. Page 3, Methods section
   I recommend you add a sentence between the Methods section heading and the sub-heading “Creating the master file” which explains what you are going to discuss in your Methods section i.e. “In this section we are going to describe the necessary steps required to….”

4. Page 3, Methods section, paragraph 1
   When you discuss that Googledocs/Gmail accounts are very easy to establish could you please add how to establish the account i.e. username/password etc.

5. Page 3, Methods section, paragraph 1 and 2
   It is unclear between paragraphs 1 and 2 as to the difference between “Spreadsheet” and “Form”. I recognise that submitted forms in Googledocs are presented in a spreadsheet however, I only understood this after I followed your instructions to set up a database. At this point in your paper, could you please explain the differences between and functions of the spreadsheet and the form.

6. Page 4, paragraph 3
   If you wish to recommend an approach to database design could you please expand on this in the Discussion section of your paper. At the beginning of this paragraph in your Methods section, please simply report what can be done i.e. I suggest you change the sentence that begins with “We recommend” to read “Each patient visit may (e.g. preoperative, one week, one month etc.) be represented by the creation …..”
Please consider adding a sentence that describes how to invite data entry persons.

**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.