Reviewer’s report

Title: Best practices for collecting repeated measures data using text messages

Version: 2 Date: 27 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Maurice Mars

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper providing recommendations for using text messages and replies for gathering patient information again. The paper is much improved by the addition of the literature review.

The literature review has been better explained, but there is still a problem. The search term is given as ("text messages" [mp] OR "Text Messaging" [MeSH]) AND ("data collection" [mp] OR "Data Collection" [MeSH]). This returns 5,448 papers in Ovid Medline. Removal of [MeSH] in both instances reduces this to 215 paper which is in line with the authors’ search. The text needs to be corrected and [MeSH] removed. Failure to use [Mesh] is unfortunate as it significantly reduces the potential number of papers and is a limitation of the review component of the paper.

For the authors' enlightenment, PRISMA diagrams are not restricted to systematic reviews and are used with scoping reviews as well see Tricco et al Ann Intern Med. 2018;169(7):467-473. DOI: 10.7326/M18-0850

In response to my query about the literature review, the authors state, "We explored themes central to data collection by SMS". This raises another issue. The term SMS was replaced with text messaging in one section of the discussion and now SMS no longer appears anywhere in the paper, other than in the references. The terms Text messages and text messaging are used throughout but it appears that they are referring to SMS messages. The authors should define text messaging the first time they use it in line 67. To the average reader text messaging includes ubiquitous instant messaging applications like WhatsApp with a billion daily users sending 65 billion encrypted text messages a day.

Line 319: HIPAA stands for 'Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act' and not 'Health Information Portability and Accountability Act' as currently stated.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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