Author’s response to reviews

Title: Remote Assessment of Disease and Relapse in Major Depressive Disorder (RADAR-MDD): A multi-centre prospective cohort study protocol

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Version: 1 Date: 25 Oct 2018

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25th October 2018

Re: Remote Assessment of Disease and Relapse in Major Depressive Disorder (RADAR-MDD): A multicentre prospective cohort study protocol.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to amend some aspects of this submission. This protocol describes a clinical study designed to test the utility of remote measurement technologies (RMT) to predict relapse in major depressive disorder. Specifically, we aim to: 1) determine the usability, feasibility and acceptability of RMT; 2) improve and refine clinical outcome measurement using RMT to identify current clinical state; 3) determine whether RMT can provide information predictive of depressive relapse and other critical outcomes.

To address the issues raised in the re-submission request:

1. We confirm that this study in ongoing – we are currently recruiting into the study.

2. An email containing our ethical approval for all has been sent to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

3. No changes were made to the overall study aims, primary or secondary outcomes, design or timeline following peer review by the funding body. The only modifications were in the specifics: which specific outcome questionnaires to use, and the wording of the information provided in the apps and the information sheets. As stated in our protocol, these were confirmed after close collaboration with our patient advisory board and thorough qualitative work.

4. The NIHR Wellcome Trust King’s Clinical Research facility and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King’s College London provide salary support for some staff members, particularly those involved in the development of the app. We are not allowed to change this acknowledgement wording in the document itself without explicit permission from the NIHR.

5. We have removed the figure titles embedded within the figures and we have re-uploaded the correct versions.
RMT has potential to revolutionise the way depression and other psychiatric conditions are measured and managed, using data collected from wearable technology and smartphone apps and sensors to measure daily life. This study represents the first step in understanding the clinical utility of the data accessible through these technologies and evaluating the acceptability and feasibility of RMT in people with major depressive disorder.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our submission and believe that BMC Psychiatry will provide the perfect platform for dissemination of this study protocol.

Yours faithfully,

Faith Matcham

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