Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Brief Educational Intervention Improves Disinfection Behaviour Change Strategies

Authors:

Benjamín Reyes-Fernández (benjamin.reyes-fernandez@fu-berlin.de)
Sonia Lippke (s.lippke@jacobs-university.de)
Nina Knoll (nina.knoll@fu-berlin.de)
Emanuel Blanca-Moya (emanuel.blanca@ucr.ac.cr)
Ralf Schwarzer (Ralf.Schwarzer@acu.edu.au)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Bremen, 2015-02-19

Dear Editor, dear Jane M. Dalumpines,

Hereby we are resubmitting our manuscript “A Brief Educational Planning Intervention Improves Disinfection Behaviour Change Strategies” by Benjamín Reyes-Fernández, Sonia Lippke, Nina Knoll, Emanuel Blanca-Moya and Ralf Schwarzer to be published in BMC Public Health.

Thank you for your feedback on how to improve the manuscript. We have adhered to your comments and have performed the following changes:

We notice that you are reporting a clinical trial but have not cited a trial registration number. This must be obtained before we can begin peer review of your manuscript.

Li We are very sorry for the confusion as our study was no clinical trial or RCT, because of the following reasons:

- Study participants were university students and no clinical sample,
- The study was a purely observational and neither clinical nor an RCT because only psychological and behavioral changes were observed instead of tracked objectively,
- The assignment of the intervention was not at the discretion of the investigator but rather determined by the schools in which the interventions took place,
The intervention was not medical but only educational, and the study took place in no clinical setting but in a university and classroom setting. Thus, we did not see the requirement for a trial registration. However, we used your helpful feedback to revise our manuscript and replace “intervention” by “experimental condition” wherever possible, or added “educational” to most of those instances where we could not avoid the term intervention. The aim of this was to make clear that this is no clinical trial but a small experimental test of an educational component provided to students.

[...]

We would like you to confirm that your clinical trial is in a publicly accessible registry before we begin peer review. The trial registration number should be included as the last line of the abstract of the manuscript.

Thank you for this advice, however, as we do not have a trial registration number we cannot add regarding information.

We hope that we could clarify all uncertainties and that the manuscript can go into the review process now.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonia Lippke on behalf of all coauthors