Author's response to reviews

Title: Integrating Mobile health and Physical Activity to reduce the burden of Chronic low back pain Trial (IMPACT): a pilot trial protocol

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Version: 3
Date: 7 December 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
7th December 2015
Dr James Mockridge,
Senior Executive Editor,
BMC series,

Dear Dr James Mockridge,

Please find the revised version of our article entitled “Integrating Mobile health and Physical Activity to reduce the burden of Chronic low back pain Trial (IMPACT): a pilot trial protocol” for publication at BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

The manuscript has been revised to address all comments received from the reviewers. We have provided a point by point response to each of the comments and have highlighted the changes to the original manuscript in green. We feel that these changes have strengthened the manuscript and we would like to thank you and the reviewers for the helpful comments.

Kind regards,

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PhD candidate
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Reviews for Manuscript

Reviewer 1
Reviewer's report: I am satisfied with the authors' responses to my comments.

Reviewer 2
Reviewer's report: Thank you for the opportunity to re-review this protocol manuscript. This is a much-improved article that now clearly describes the study protocol. I commend the authors for their careful attention to all comments received in the prior review. I have no further concerns that would hold this manuscript back from publication and recommend that it proceed through the publication process at this time.

Minor Essential Revision: In the Discussion paragraph, please list all 3 of the primary outcomes in the following sentence: "This intervention aims to empower patients to self-manage their LBP, as well as to prevent back pain recurrence, *disability* and to reduce care seeking..."

Author’s response: We thank the reviewer for raising this point. We have included *disability* in the sentence on page 18, line 2.

Editor
Editor's comment: In addition, there are some stylistic points that also need to be addressed.
1) Abstract:
i) Trial registration: please add the registration date alongside the trial number at the end of the Abstract.

Author’s response: The registration date has been added alongside the trial number at the end of the Abstract.

ii) Funding: please remove this as it is stated in the main text.

Author’s response: This information has been removed from the Abstract.
2) Acknowledgements: the following text at the bottom of page 18 should be moved into the Acknowledgements section (‘This study will be funded by a competitive grant awarded by the Medibank Health Research Fund and the proposal was peer reviewed. The funder has no part in designing the study and in its implementation, analysis, data interpretation and presentation of the results.’)

Author’s response: This information has now been moved to the Acknowledgements section.

3) Additional files: these are reserved for material to accompany the published paper. Therefore the funding letter and the responses to reviewers should not be uploaded with the revised version.

Author’s response: We apologize for the mistake. We have now removed the funding letter and the response letter to reviewers from the ‘Additional material files’.