Reviewer’s report

Title: A virtual clinic for the management of diabetes-type 1: Study protocol for a randomised wait-list controlled clinical trial.

Version: 0 Date: 09 Apr 2020

Reviewer's report:

This is an important study exploring the effect of a virtual clinic for an important and poorly controlled group of people with type 1 diabetes. This is a protocol paper so it describes the methodology for a study that has already been peer reviewed and funded, and which I presume has ethical approval.

I have some minor but important comments and reflections on the study design and write up

- the duration of type 1 diabetes needs to be clarified in the methodology and the researchers need to consider whether they restrict recruitment to people after 5 years of diagnosis. This is because HbA1c is generally not stable over the first 5 years. Therefore the natural history of the disease, rather than the intervention, may account for any changes seen during the study. See Krishnarajah et al 2018 article on glycaemic tracking also replicated with data from Scottish database

- it is not clear why a standard cross over design is not used. Instead one arm stays on the intervention during the second 6 months. Additional statistical power may be obtained if the treatment arm reverts to the usual care arm. Some explanation as to the thinking behind this would be useful

- Data needs to be collected on those participants who refuse to enter the study. These may be the patients who need most support with their diabetes control.

- Please clarify if data is being collected for health economics - if the study is shown to be effective then it would be important to show that it is also cost effective

- whilst time in range data is collected, please also ensure that rates of DKA and severe hypo are collected. The former in particular is very important for this age group

- there some minor typographical errors which require correcting

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.

No

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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