Reviewer's report

Title: The SMART personalised self-management system for congestive heart failure (CHF PSMS): Results of a realist evaluation

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2014

Reviewer: Giovanni Maccioni

Reviewer's report:

Report
Thank you very much for the chance to review an interesting article.

This paper describes the results of a realist evaluation of a SMART Personalised Self-Management System (PSMS) for CHF.

The study is interesting and potentially could give an important contribution to the journal as a paper (but see the first comment).

It needs the following changes to be publishable:

1. (General comment) Better focus to the field of the journal (eHealth/telehealth/mobile health systems). In the present form the paper is more directed to a different audience (probably software developers/engineers etc)

2. Avoid the use of acronyms in the title and paragraphs.

3. Starting from the Intro the paper is arranged like a report. Rearrange it according to the structure of a scientific paper.

4. It is difficult to follow some passages (see for example from row 254 up to 406). These passages should be smoothed and strongly reduced.

5. The results should be enlarged with more information about the systems (HW, SW,RX-TX) and application in the field of interest of the journal.

6. In general, the addition of flow-charts describing the application and the systems could help the reader (see also the previous comment)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'