Reviewer's report

Title: Developing a tablet computer based application ('App') to measure self-reported alcohol consumption in Indigenous Australians

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Roisin O'Connor

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This is a study of an approach to the development of an App to assess alcohol consumption. Unique to this study is that the assessment is tailored to Indigenous Australians. A clear strength of the study is the community involvement at all stages of development, with it noted that at times weekly consultations were done between the research team and members of the target population. Overall, I am quite favourable of the study. It has applications beyond the target community, as it speaks to an approach, not just to the specific questionnaire/App that was developed for this study. However, a few concerns were raised for me.

1. There seems to be two components to this study. There is the method/technology and there is the specific questionnaire that was developed. The evaluation of these seemed conflated. The study adequately addresses the use of the App, but the questionnaire developed is not validated. While the items selected for the questionnaire come from previously psychometrically supported assessment tools, they have been adapted for the current study. Are these reliable and valid measures? Without this, the utility of this specific App is hard to assess.

2. The questions are tailored to the individual, which has the potential to increase the validity of the tool. However, it is unclear how the individual-tailored questions lead to data that is easily amalgamated at a group level. What values are derived? What are the units of measurement?

3. It is noted that the clinician was there to assist. How easy to use is the App when the student is alone?
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.

Unable to assess

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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