Reviewer’s report

Title: Design and evaluation of a mobile application to assist the self-monitoring of the chronic kidney disease in developing countries

Version: 0  Date: 28 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Robyn Clay-Williams

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your paper titled 'Design and evaluation of a mobile application to assist the self-monitoring of the chronic kidney disease in developing countries'. Monitoring of disease progression, such as CKD, in developing countries and/or remote communities is problematic, and you are to be commended on tackling the problem. I have a couple of suggestions for your consideration:

Background

Other apps. A quick search on the app store reveals that other apps are available to address this problem. Therefore, there needs to be a short discussion of other CKD apps, and why this app addresses the weaknesses of apps currently available, in the background section. Examples from a quick search include these:

1. CKD-Go!, which allows for a personalised action plan based on e GFR and urine albumin: creatinine ratio.
2. e GFR calculators, which contains a series of calculators.

Description of the app. Recommend addition of a paragraph to describe the app and how it is designed to be used (I realise some of this is in the Results section, but the reader needs to know about the app before they read the Method). For example, it is not clear at the moment how the patient data are entered into the app. Does the patient receive blood test results, and then transpose them into the app?

Method

The method is generally well-described and appropriate. However, more detail on the patient usability testing is needed. For example, where patients enter their test data into the app, were ease of transcription and transcription errors assessed? What were the range of responses to the
interview questions? It might be helpful for the reader if you were to include the interview questions as an Appendix/Supplementary material, along with any representative quotes.

Overall

Whilst your paper is generally well-written, the English is a little odd in places (some of the English words are not appropriate/have different meaning to that intended) - suggest that you consult with a native English speaker to fix the issues as, at the moment, they make the text a little difficult to follow in places.

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.

Yes

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:

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