Reviewer’s report

Title: Initial Development of Supportive Care Assessment, Prioritization and Recommendations for Kids (SPARK), a symptom screening and management application

Version: 0 Date: 04 Sep 2018

Reviewer: El Khebir Ghandour

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript represents a very relevant study that required a lot of investment in terms of time, energy and resources by the research team for both planning and realizing the project. The methodology seems to be well thought-out and combines several steps and an iterative work.

The participants sample is impressive given the context of the care delivery chosen, the nature of the disease and the tasks required, enrollment of 90 children and two interviewers to conduct all assessments, Invision platform use...

The team research used a co-construction approach involving researchers, patients, and technology developers that contributed to a relevant product, most likely useful and usable for sick kids, their families and health professionals.

However, although the authors well presented methodological bases for the design and development of the web application, the manuscript didn't suggest any theoretical bases for the application evaluation part. Also, in quantitative assessment, it would be appropriate if the authors give more information:

- To present the proposed items and give more information about measurement tools development and validation (measure of Understandability, Usability and Ease of understanding of SPARK reports concepts)?

- Explain why the authors choose that the Understandability of SPARK components were evaluated concept it has 4-point Likert scale while the two other concepts (Usability and Ease of understanding of SPARK reports was evaluated on a 5-point Likert scale?

In the discussion section, authors talk about "Utility of SPARK from the perspective of children with cancer", this aspect was not evaluated in this study?

Also, it would be appropriate to specify in the conclusion that the platform has been evaluated with children 8 years and older for the studied aspects.

On page 10, missing the word "Help" in the sentence - "understood the "How Will SSPedi Me?", bottom of page.
With my best regards,

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 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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