Reviewer's report

Title: Testing the feasibility of a mobile technology intervention promoting healthy gestational weight gain in pregnant women (txt4two): a study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2015

Reviewer: Michael Schlussel

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Self-reported BMI may be significantly biased, as several studies have shown that it tends to be underestimated. In this sense, it is very unlikely that the selected women would not meet the inclusion criteria of being overweight/obese before pregnancy. However, this may become a problem if the authors plan to run a subgroup analysis based on pre-pregnancy BMI categories.

Women are likely to have gained a significant amount of weight by the 17th week of gestation. Their measured weight at this point is therefore not useful for validating the self-reported pre-pregnancy BMI. Using this measure to estimate the total gestational weight gain, which is the main secondary outcome of the study, may lead to biased analyses. Subgroup analysis according to the pre-pregnancy BMI will not solve this problem and may add even more bias to the results if obese women are inadvertently analysed together with overweight women.

This is a feasibility randomised controlled trial. Clearly stating the limitations of the protocol, which will not prevent the authors from investigating the primary outcome of the study, would shed light on important methodological issues that must be considered in similar future studies aiming to investigate the intervention's efficacy/effectiveness; if it is proven to be feasible.

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