Reviewer’s report

Title: MOVING: A motivation oriented intervention study for the elderly in Greifswald: study protocol for a controlled, randomized trial

Version: 0 Date: 02 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Roberto Pecoits-Filho

Reviewer's report:

In this interesting study, the authors asked the question of whether or not individual feedback letters, based on accelerometer data, have a positive effect on PA and ST.

This is a two-arm pragmatic randomized controlled trial consisting of a participant screening, baseline examination, randomization, intervention and follow-up-examinations at three, six, and twelve months after baseline.

I have some concerns that will need to be addressed before the manuscript can be considered for publication in TRIALS.

1. The is a large variation in the data from references regarding the decrease in PA with age (2.4 - 29%). The manuscript would benefit from a more descriptive display of this data, to justify such variation.

2. Background data is provided for Norway and US. Is data from Germany also available - that would be useful for planning the study in terms of assumptions and projections.

3. Please define better permeant use of wheelchair

4. Please justify the use of the 10K steps recommendations of WHO. Has this recommendation validated for the elderly population? Is this recommendation extended to apply to this age group?
5. Please provide the specific reference utilized and more details of the primary data used in the power calculation? Complete data generated by the power calculation should be provided.

6. I believe that the statistical analysis of the outcome data need a more detailed description.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

Statistical review
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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