**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Editorial Promoting Help-seeking using E-Technology for ADolescents: The ProHEAD Consortium

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Dear Reviewer #1,

we thank you for reviewing our editorial entitled “Promoting Help-seeking using E-Technology for ADolescents: The ProHEAD Consortium” submitted for consideration of publication in TRIALS.

We have carefully addressed all comments raised by you and the other reviewer concerning the improvement of the editorial.

In addition we shortened the abstract to reduce redundancy.

Reviewer #1: This is the protocol for a large-scale study program that entails five RCTs aimed at preventing and treating mental health problems in children/adolescents via Internet-based interventions. This is an important project, considering the prevalence of mental health problems across the lifespan and, therefore, the need to prevent mental illness early on and to destigmatize help seeking behavior for such problems. The protocol is well-written and clear enough, considering that further protocol details for each RCT are provided in each separate protocol. I only have very few comments, related to syntax/grammatical errors in the introduction:

p.3, line 64 - I would remove the word "impairment" at the end of the sentence, as this word doesn't add to the sentence, and "reducing the onset of impairment" sounds incorrect.

done

p.3, line 67 - I would replace the word "barriers" by "factors" - as barriers can prevent things, but not contribute to things.
Dear Reviewer #2,

we thank you for reviewing our editorial entitled “Promoting Help-seeking using E-Technology for ADOlescents: The ProHEAD Consortium” submitted for consideration of publication in TRIALS.

We have carefully addressed all comments raised by you and the other reviewer concerning the improvement of the editorial.

In addition we shortened the abstract to reduce redundancy.

Reviewer #2: Review of the editorial: „Promoting Help-seeking using E-Technology for Adolescents: The ProHEAD Consortium”

The authors have written a clear and convincing editorial about their consortium on facilitating research on help-seeking behavior among adolescents including randomized controlled trials investigating internet and technology based screening and treatment. The authors have provided a strong rational including the relevant literature and have clearly addressed the gaps of knowledge in their editorial. The screen and treat approach, with screening at the school level and interventions applied online seems highly suitable for adolescents who face several treatment barriers.

I have only two minor comments:

1) To me it was somewhat unclear whether the RCT studies investigate "preventive" interventions with subthreshold symptomatology/disorders or whether they also include
adolescents with clinically relevant symptoms of depression, eating disorders and substance abuse

All participants who report clinically relevant symptoms of any disorder are allocated to sub-project 1, i.e. an RCT that evaluates an online intervention to enhance the utilization of conventional psychotherapeutic/psychiatric care. Those who report subthreshold symptomatology related to eating disorders, substance abuse or depression are allocated to sub-projects 2, 3, and 4 respectively, i.e. RCTs that evaluate various preventive online programs for these conditions (see pp. 6-8). We hope that the flow chart included in the revised version of the editorial (see below) helps to illustrate the allocation of participants to the various trials.

2) The authors could explain in more detail how the referral within the ProHEAD consortium after screening will be performed. If this is suitable for an editorial a flow chart/figure would be helpful to understand the study arms and referral pathways.

Thank you for this suggestion. We have included a flow chart (figure 1) to illustrate the allocation of participants to the five sub-projects / RCTs and hope that this helps readers to get an overview about the ProHEAD consortium as a whole.