Reviewer’s report

Title: Targeted Interventions to Prevent Chronic Low Back Pain in High Risk Patients: Development and Delivery of a Pragmatic Training Course of Psychologically Informed Physical Therapy for the TARGET Trial

Version: 1 Date: 25 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Liba Sheeran

Reviewer's report:

To Authors:

Thank you the authors for addressing the comments. Most comments were adequately addressed and manuscript appropriately revised. I have some further recommendations about point 4 and 9.

Point 4 relating to Methods: Lacks important details (study design, total sample size, selection and recruitment of the participants, details on data type and normal distribution testing). It would be also useful to adopt more standard way of reporting of quantitative research.

'Just to clarify, the current manuscript is a companion paper for the more traditional protocol paper that will provide full description of details listed above. The TARGET Trial protocol paper is currently in peer-review process and has not yet been published; therefore depending on timeline we may be able to reference protocol paper when formally accepted?'

My view would be there are only way to resolve it; one would be to wait till the companion paper is published (or at least accepted) to be appropriately referenced or two - this manuscript needs to state the details it is currently missing.

Point 9. Live workshop - Within the PIPT website it states the 1 day live workshop is highly recommended. Was it monitored how many attended and was there a difference between those who did and did not in measured outcomes?

'To clarify, the PIPT website states: "It is highly recommended that all of the online modules be viewed prior to attending the live workshop." All sites participating in the TARGET Trial were required to host a live workshop. However, we were not able to monitor specific aspects of participation due to evaluation being quality improvement based. We were also not able to measure PABS-PT or confidence outcomes for physical therapists that did not attend the workshop because the videos were never meant to be "stand alone" for training physical therapists.'

On that basis this being quality improvement evaluation needs to be acknowledged in the manuscript

Good luck with the trial
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