Reviewer’s report

Title: Enhancing & Mobilizing the POTential for Wellness & Emotional Resilience Among Surrogate Decision-Makers of ICU Patients (EMPOWER): Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 27 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Alison Calear

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your protocol paper. The following changes are recommended:

1. SPIRIT items 4 and 5c should be page 15. Please revise checklist.

2. SPIRIT item 11a: Please detail how long each module takes to complete on average and the length of the booster sessions.

3. SPIRIT item 11b: Please detail if under any circumstances the intervention would be stopped.

4. SPIRIT item 11c: Please detail if you will use any strategies to encourage engagement/completion of the EMPOWER modules (e.g., reminders).

5. Please refer to all Figures and Tables in the text (e.g., Figure 1 presents...).

6. SPIRIT item 18a: Please detail the number of items for each scale and internal consistency where possible.

7. SPIRIT item 18b: Please detail if you will collect any data from participants who dropout of the study.

8. SPIRIT items 29, 31b and 31c should be page 15. Please revise checklist.

9. SPIRIT item 31a: Please detail if/how results will be communicated to participants.

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