Reviewer’s report

Title: Addressing preconception behaviour change through mobile phone apps: a protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Luiza Hoga

Reviewer's report:

PROTOCOL TITLE
The title of this protocol can be improved through inclusion of the type of systematic review (SR) being proposed

BACKGROUND
This section sounds well, and the importance of the results of this SR is justified. But the inexistence of a SR with the same theme in progress or concluded was not mentioned. The mention of this aspect is essential at the end of a SR background.

SR’s review question and aim.
The review question should be presented clearly and the PICO elements clarified in details. The meanings involved in the "promotion of a healthier behaviour" are varied and complex. In this sense, the aim of this SR should be clarified and better defined in terms of what elements of women’s daily life are directly related to behaviour change through smartphone apps.

INCLUSION CRITERIA
In terms of SR, the "methods" should be changed by "inclusion criteria". About the sub-section "participants", more details about the women to be considered in this SR should be reported. The worldwide scenery and audience should also be considered. In terms of biological conditions: blind, deaf Social conditions: illiterate, women who live in countries where the women’s rights are not respected (access to smartphones forbidden by husbands, religion, etc). Considering the maternal and neonatal outcomes, some women’s preconceptional conditions should be considered, in terms of biological conditions and social conditions. In the biological sphere, conditions such as the chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes, etc), cancer, repetitive urinary tract infections, malformations, and other directly associated with maternal and neonatal outcomes. In the social sphere, some conditions are directly associated with maternal and neonatal outcomes - access to prenatal care, health care institutions, housing conditions, environmental conditions, etc. Some of these conditions are out of control of health care providers, and the apps advertisements are not enough to avoid negative maternal and neonatal outcomes in several cases involving very hard social and biological conditions.
SETTING
In the same way to think this SR, the consideration of some aspects of study settings is too important. The maternal and neonatal outcomes of a woman living in a structured family, within the own country, being employed, with a stable housing can be diverse if compared with an other woman, for example, living in a prison, out of her own country, fugitive, etc. The women’s age and marital conditions should also be considered. The ways an adult and married women experience a pregnancy can be diverse if compared with a single adolescent and a very young adolescent (there are many adolescents with 10, 11 years of age around the world who become pregnant). Consequently, the maternal and neonatal outcomes can also be diverse.

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
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Acceptable

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No