Reviewer’s report

Title: Feasibility of a laboratory-based accelerometer calibration protocol for children with intellectual disabilities.

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2015

Reviewer: Roberto Sassi

Reviewer’s report:

Well written report, attempting to assess the feasibility of an accelerometer calibration protocol for children with intellectual disabilities (ID). The authors were careful to propose several assessments for the feasibility including recruitment, activity completion rates and data quality. Disappointingly, their results show that their proposed protocol cannot be done feasibly in children with ID for multiple reasons. Recruitment rates were much lower than anticipated, and completion was minimal. Given the feasibility goals, it would have been important to better understand the reasons for some of the poor enrolment and completion, but little is known regarding the reasons for declining participation in the study, or the clinical characteristics between participants and non-participants. There is little discussion on whether the aetiology of ID or its severity could have been associated with recruitment and/or completion rates. Overall an interesting study that reinforces the difficulties of studying this particular clinical population.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.