Author’s response to reviews

Title: Adaptation of POCT for Pharmacies to Reduce risk and Optimize Access to Care in HIV, the APPROACH study: examining acceptability and feasibility

Authors:

Jason Kielly (kiellyj@mun.ca)

Deborah Kelly (dvkelly@mun.ca)

Christine Hughes (cah1@ualberta.ca)

Kristine Day (kristine.day@mun.ca)

Stephanie Hancock (h55sdh@mun.ca)

Shabnam Asghari (Shabnam.Asghari@med.mun.ca)

Jacqueline Gahagan (Jacqueline.Gahagan@Dal.ca)

Carlo Marra (carlo.marra@otago.ac.nz)

Hai Nguyen (hvnguyen@mun.ca)

Version: 1 Date: 26 Jan 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #1: This is a well-written manuscript describing an important and innovative pharmacy practice concept, namely the offering of point-of-care HIV testing in community pharmacies in Canada.

This article is recommended for publication, upon consideration of the following minor suggestion:

In the Methods, please clarify that participation in this trial or results of the HIV test will not be stored in the participant's pharmacy records, or shared with their family physician or insurance company.
Reviewer #2: Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. This is an important study protocol that deserve to be published in the Pilot and Feasibility Studies.

In general, this is a well written protocol but the manuscript can be improved further highlighting different sections essential for a study protocol as outlined in the following article:

"background, rationale, objectives, study population, interventions, methods, statistical analyses, ethical considerations, dissemination plans, and administration of the trial"

• Done.
  o See line 70 for addition of “Rationale”
  
  o See line 232 for the addition of “Study population”
  
  o See line 263 for the addition of “Intervention”
  
  o See line 327 for the addition of “Statistical Analysis”
  
  o See line 315 for the addition of “Ethical Considerations”
  
  o See line 448 for the addition of “Dissemination Plans”
The specific use of the heading “Administration of Trial” was difficult to find in published manuscripts from Trials and Pilot and Feasibility Studies. We believe that the intent/spirit of this term is captured under the heading “HIV POCT Process – Intervention” on line 263.

It is also essential to clarify the rationale behind a sample of size 30. Is this number sufficient for those questions the author planning to address?

- Changes were made to the sample size section in line with those proposed by O’Dolan et al. Pilot and Feasibility Studies (2018) 4:33 DOI 10.1186/s40814-017-0226-8. See line 357.

Restructuring the statistical analysis plan section for each study objective and question might be helpful.

Each paragraph in the Statistical analysis section corresponds to a study objective, in the order they are listed in the manuscript. Given the high number of headings and subheadings within the document, we suggest that specific/additional subheadings in this section would not provide additional benefit or clarity.