Reviewer’s report

Title: Telephone-Based Motivational Interviewing versus Usual Care in Primary Care to Increase Physical Activity: A Randomized Pilot Study

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2018

Reviewer: Nick Zwar

Reviewer's report:

This is a well conceived study, well conducted and well described study. The intervention has a strong theoretical basis. The quantitative outcome measures have face validity and reliability.

There needs to be a short section on limitations

- one is that there is little information on how clinics were selected. It sounds like a convenience sample of interested clinics and participating clinics and clinicians may be atypical of the broader group. If so this would be likely to have an impact on generalizability of the intervention.

- second the number of participants interviewed was very small (four) and there is no information on how the data was analyzed so it is difficult to draw conclusions from this data.

- the methods of identifying participants changed over the course of the study and the two groups may have responded differently to the intervention.

- there is no data on the socioeconomic status of participants though this could be important for reaching those most in need of the intervention.

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