Author’s response to reviews

Title: An electronic registry to improve adherence to active surveillance monitoring among men with prostate cancer at a safety-net hospital: protocol for a pilot study

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Version: 1 Date: 18 Nov 2018

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Dear Drs. Lancaster, Thabane, and the BMC Pilot and Feasibility Studies Editorial Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled “An electronic registry to improve adherence to active surveillance monitoring among men with prostate cancer at a safety-net hospital”. In this study, we describe a protocol for evaluating a health information technology intervention designed to improve monitoring of men on active surveillance for prostate cancer in an urban, integrated, publicly-funded health network.

This manuscript is within the scope of BMC Pilot and Feasibility Studies because it describes the protocol of a non-randomized, pragmatic evaluation in preparation for a large-scale observational study. While the intervention we describe does not lend itself to randomization, there is a need to determine whether the effort to systematize tracking and monitoring during active surveillance improves patient outcomes.

Our pilot study is ongoing; patient recruitment is not complete. As our protocol describes the clinic-wide implementation of a quality improvement intervention, we do not consider the SPIRIT figure to appropriately align with our study design. However, we have included the SPIRIT checklist for your review. We hope the editors will consider our study due to its long-term nature and innovative approach to bridging research and practice in an under-resourced setting. The study has been approved by the University of California, San Francisco Institutional Review Board (12-09658) and is registered on ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT03553732). The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and National Cancer Institute provided funding for this study.
Thank you for your consideration.