Author’s response to reviews

Title: GAPcare: The Geriatric Acute and Post-acute Fall Prevention Intervention: A pilot investigation of an emergency department-based fall prevention program for community-dwelling older adults

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Version: 2 Date: 01 Aug 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

August 1, 2019

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your helpful edit suggestions to our manuscript. We have included a line by line response to your suggestions.

Reviewer #1: Please state the primary feasibility outcome(s) and corresponding criteria for determining success of feasibility both in the abstract and in the text.

We thank reviewer #1 for their suggestions to clarify our feasibility outcomes. We have added additional wording to the abstract and the text to reflect that we are using the following key criteria: the number of screened participants who are eligible, recruited and retained and the ED length of stay.

See abstract and page 6, purpose and methods section

Reviewer #1: Please clearly describe how the analysis of feasibility outcomes will be performed

We have added additional text in the data analysis portion of the manuscript to describe how we will analyze the feasibility outcomes. In brief, we will use recommendations put forth by Lancaster GA et al. (2014) to descriptively analyze the following measures: number of patients screened, proportion eligible, number of patients recruited, time required to recruit, number of...
patients unable to provide consent, number of patient refusals, the number of drop-outs, and retention at each follow-up time point. We will use frequencies, rates, means, and standard deviations, as appropriate, to report on these feasibility measures.

See page 15, data analysis section

Reviewer #1: Shouldn't the sample size justification be based on the key feasibility objectives?

According to the CONSORT guidelines on pilot trials (Eldridge et al.) in 2016, the sample size should be justified, and a key objective of pilot studies should be to get initial estimates of efficacy for the subsequent larger trial. With this in mind, we provided more rationale for our sample size analysis by elaborating on the effect sizes of prior trials and how this informed our sample size calculation.

See page 15, sample size calculation section

Sincerely,

The Authors