Reviewer’s report

Title: Pilot randomized controlled trial of a complex intervention for diabetes self-management supported by volunteers, technology, and interprofessional primary health care teams

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Mary Adu

Reviewer's report:

A. I think the main weakness of this paper remains in the rigor of the qualitative analyses as they are described and presented currently. The paper would benefit from some additional changes to fit in with the requirements of reporting a qualitative study. A consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ) checklist could be used.

Specifically,

1. a. The coding approach could benefit from more rigor. Please expatiate on thematic data coding. Specific type of thematic analysis conducted is missing. You might want to consider describing the phases (including a framework) as noted by Braun and Clarke (2006)...Referenced 37 in the manuscript.

b. It might be helpful to report the rate of agreement between the two coders.

c. Please include what qualitative experience the coders had, and other efforts to promote rigor of the analyses (e.g other members check).

2. There was no explanation about how the 12 respondents who participated in the interview were selected. There is also need to explain how data saturation was achieved.

3. Duration of interview was not mentioned.

4. Please note other points that is included in the COREQ checklist and ensure they are reported in the paper, as the checklist is not supposed to replace what is reported in the paper.

B.

1. I observed in Table 3 which listed the participant characteristics, that some participant Language was not English. This raised the question of, in what language was the questionnaire administered to this non-English cohort? How did they communicate with volunteers? Were they part of the interviewees?
2. In one sentence, please state the discipline or professional background of the volunteers

3. In the introduction, please add a theoretical definition of what self-management is. It is actually missing.

4. Under the study design session; "The controlled group received usual care, followed by elements of the intervention that were feasible to include after the intervention period...". The aforementioned statement in quote is not clear. Please make more explicit.

5. Please ensure the full meaning of all abbreviations are provided before subsequent use. Particularly "EMR" used under setting, "RAPA Aerobic score" used under the session 'Assessment of trial outcomes'.

6. Please move the paragraph under Table 1. i.e lines 42-53 on page 11 to page 10 after line 42. This will provide the reader an immediate access to what the "Huddle team" entails.

7. Line 26, page 14 should read, except HbA1c and not excepting HbA1c.

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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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