Reviewer’s report

Title: A feasibility study of ‘The StepSmart Challenge’ to promote physical activity in adolescents

Version: 1 Date: 05 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Alastair Ross

Reviewer's report:

Thanks. I note the point by point comments and responses to the other reviewer. It's interesting work. I am clearer now about the pragmatic initial recruitment, randomized allocation, then classes identified by schools as broadly representative. Re; "Actually most statisticians are generally not enthusiastic about using a pilot study results as the basis of a power calculation." I agree this needs caution but would imagine things like Standard Deviation of the primary outcome and retention can be informative for subsequent calculations? There are various treatments and guidance e.g. using sensitivity analysis for trial sample size based on pilot data; perhaps a sentence could be added to this effect i.e. explain next steps/ how scaling up for trial will require such.

Level of interest

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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

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Acceptable

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