

## Appendix 1: Search strategy for *BMC*-series medical journals in PubMed

("bmc anesthiol"[Journal] OR "bmc blood disord"[Journal] OR "bmc cancer"[Journal] OR "bmc cardiovasc disord"[Journal] OR "bmc clin pathol"[Journal] OR "bmc complement altern med"[Journal] OR "bmc dermatol"[Journal] OR "bmc ear nose throat disord"[Journal] OR "bmc emerg med"[Journal] OR "bmc endocr disord"[Journal] OR "bmc fam pract"[Journal] OR "bmc gastroenterol"[Journal] OR "bmc geriatr"[Journal] OR "bmc health serv res"[Journal] OR "bmc infect dis"[Journal] OR "bmc int health hum rights"[Journal] OR "bmc med educ"[Journal] OR "bmc med ethics"[Journal] OR "bmc med genet"[Journal] OR "bmc med genomics"[Journal] OR "bmc med imaging"[Journal] OR "bmc med inform decis mak"[Journal] OR "bmc med phys"[Journal] OR "bmc med res methodol"[Journal] OR "bmc medicine"[Journal] OR "bmc musculoskelet disord"[Journal] OR "bmc nephrol"[Journal] OR "bmc neurol"[Journal] OR "bmc nurs"[Journal] OR "bmc ophthalmology"[Journal] OR "bmc oral health"[Journal] OR "bmc palliat care"[Journal] OR "bmc pediatr"[Journal] OR "bmc pharmacol toxicol"[Journal] OR "bmc pregnancy and childbirth"[Journal] OR "bmc psychiatry"[Journal] OR "bmc public health"[Journal] OR "bmc pulm med"[Journal] OR "bmc surg"[Journal] OR "bmc urol"[Journal] OR "bmc women's health"[Journal])

The search was limited to "Humans" and "Randomized Controlled Trials" as a Publication Type, with a publication date of 01/01/2012 to 22/10/2012.

**Appendix 2: Number of included randomized trials by BMC-series medical journal**

	<b>Number of manuscripts n=93 (%)</b>
BMC Cancer	2 (2%)
BMC Cardiovascular Disorders	2 (2%)
BMC Complementary Alternative Medicine	5 (5%)
BMC Dermatology	2 (2%)
BMC Family Practice	5 (5%)
BMC Gastroenterology	6 (6%)
BMC Geriatrics	2 (2%)
BMC Health Service Research	2 (2%)
BMC Infectious Diseases	3 (3%)
BMC Medicine	6 (6%)
BMC Medical Education	7 (8%)
BMC Medical Research Methodology	1 (1%)
BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders	9 (10%)
BMC Nephrology	3 (3%)
BMC Neurology	1 (1%)
BMC Ophthalmology	2 (2%)
BMC Oral Health	2 (2%)
BMC Pediatrics	5 (5%)
BMC Pharmacology and Toxicology	1 (1%)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth	1 (1%)
BMC Psychiatry	6 (6%)
BMC Public Health	17 (18%)
BMC Pulmonary Medicine	2 (2%)
BMC Womens Health	1 (1%)

### Appendix 3: List of randomized trials included in *BMC-series medical journals* (n=93)

1. Ageberg EB, A.; Rosen, B.; Roos, E. M. Principles of brain plasticity in improving sensorimotor function of the knee and leg in patients with anterior cruciate ligament injury: a double-blind randomized exploratory trial. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:68.
2. Aittasalo MR, M.; Pasanen, M.; Kukkonen-Harjula, K.; Vasankari, T. Promoting walking among office employees - evaluation of a randomized controlled intervention with pedometers and e-mail messages. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:403.
3. Al Moamary MSA-K, A. G.; Al Ghobain, M. O.; Tamim, H. M. Utilization and responsiveness of the asthma control test (ACT) at the initiation of therapy for patients with asthma: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Pulm Med* 2012;12:14.
4. Alkarimi HAW, R. G.; Pikhart, H.; Jawadi, A. H.; Sheiham, A.; Tsakos, G. Impact of treating dental caries on schoolchildren's anthropometric, dental, satisfaction and appetite outcomes: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:706.
5. Altaei T. The treatment of melasma by silymarin cream. *BMC Dermatol* 2012;12:18.
6. Andersen FV, M.; Halvorsen, D. S.; Straume, B.; Wilsgaard, T.; Engstad, T. A. The effect of stimulation therapy and donepezil on cognitive function in Alzheimer's disease. A community based RCT with a two-by-two factorial design. *BMC Neurol* 2012;12:59.
7. Andrews CN, Sadowski DC, Lazarescu A, Williams C, Neshev E, Storr M, et al. Unsedated peroral wireless pH capsule placement vs. standard pH testing: a randomized study and cost analysis. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2012;12:58.
8. Aramwit PK, O.; Siritientong, T.; Bang, N.; Supasyndh, O. Sericin cream reduces pruritus in hemodialysis patients: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled experimental study. *BMC Nephrol* 2012;13:119.
9. Arun JLL, R.; Kabra, S. K. Bronchodilatory effect of inhaled budesonide/formoterol and budesonide/salbutamol in acute asthma: a double-blind, randomized controlled trial. *BMC Pediatr* 2012;12:21.
10. Asher GNV, A. J.; Weaver, M. A.; Dominik, R.; Caughey, M.; Hinderliter, A. L. Effect of hawthorn standardized extract on flow mediated dilation in prehypertensive and mildly hypertensive adults: a randomized, controlled cross-over trial. *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2012;12:26.
11. Ayoughi SM, I.; Weierstall, R.; Elbert, T. Provision of mental health services in resource-poor settings: a randomised trial comparing counselling with routine medical treatment in North Afghanistan (Mazar-e-Sharif). *BMC Psychiatry* 2012;12:14.
12. Berk MD, O. M.; Cotton, S. M.; Gama, C. S.; Kapczinski, F.; Fernandes, B.; Kohlmann, K.; Jeavons, S.; Hewitt, K.; Moss, K.; Allwang, C.; Schapkaitz, I.; Cobb, H.; Bush, A. I.; Dodd, S.; Malhi, G. S. Maintenance N-acetyl cysteine treatment for bipolar disorder: a double-blind randomized placebo controlled trial. *BMC Med* 2012;10:91.
13. Bleskestad IHB, H.; Hartmann, A.; Godang, K.; Goransson, L. G. Fibroblast growth factor 23 and parathyroid hormone after treatment with active vitamin D and sevelamer carbonate in patients with chronic kidney disease stage 3b, a randomized crossover trial. *BMC Nephrol* 2012;13:49.
14. Brosseau LW, G. A.; Kenny, G. P.; Reid, R.; Maetzel, A.; Tugwell, P.; Huijbregts, M.; McCullough, C.; De Angelis, G.; Chen, L. The implementation of a community-based aerobic walking program for mild to moderate knee osteoarthritis: a knowledge translation randomized controlled trial: part II: clinical outcomes. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:1073.
15. Bruce-Brand RAW, R. J.; Ong, J. C.; Emerson, B. S.; O'Byrne, J. M.; Moyna, N. M. Effects of home-based resistance training and neuromuscular electrical stimulation in knee osteoarthritis: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:118.
16. Carlbring PA, M.; Sehlin, H.; Amir, N.; Rousseau, A.; Hofmann, S. G.; Andersson, G. Internet-delivered attention bias modification training in individuals with social anxiety disorder--a double blind randomized controlled trial. *BMC Psychiatry* 2012;12:66.

17. Carlini BHM, A. M.; Weaver, M. T.; Kauffman, R. M.; Cerutti, B.; Stratton, R. M.; Zbikowski, S. M. Reaching out, inviting back: using Interactive voice response (IVR) technology to recycle relapsed smokers back to Quitline treatment--a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:507.
18. Chareancholvanich KS, P.; Narkbunnam, R.; Pornrattanamaneewong, C. Temporary clamping of drain combined with tranexamic acid reduce blood loss after total knee arthroplasty: a prospective randomized controlled trial. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:124.
19. Cheng YW, W.; Feng, W.; Wang, J.; Chen, Y.; Shen, Y.; Li, Q.; Zhang, X.; Li, C. The effects of multi-domain versus single-domain cognitive training in non-demented older people: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Med* 2012;10:30.
20. Cochrane TD, R.; Iqbal, Z.; Gidlow, C.; Kumar, J.; Chambers, R.; Mawby, Y. NHS health checks through general practice: randomised trial of population cardiovascular risk reduction. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:944.
21. Cross JLE, F.; Barton, G.; Clark, A.; Shepstone, L.; Blyth, A.; Bachmann, M. O.; Harvey, I. Evaluation of the effectiveness of manual chest physiotherapy techniques on quality of life at six months post exacerbation of COPD (MATREX): a randomised controlled equivalence trial. *BMC Pulm Med* 2012;12:33.
22. Deng ZQZ, H.; Zhao, L.; Zhou, S. Y.; Li, Y.; Liang, F. R. Health economic evaluation of acupuncture along meridians for treating migraine in China: results from a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2012;12:75.
23. Duric NSA, J.; Gundersen, D.; Elgen, I. B. Neurofeedback for the treatment of children and adolescents with ADHD: a randomized and controlled clinical trial using parental reports. *BMC Psychiatry* 2012;12:107.
24. Duval X, Caplanusi A, Laurichesse H, Deplanque D, Loulergue P, Vaman T, et al. Flexibility of interval between vaccinations with AS03A-adjuvanted influenza A (H1N1) 2009 vaccine in adults aged 18-60 and >60 years: a randomized trial. *BMC Infect Dis* 2012;12:162.
25. Eggertsen R, Andreasson A, Andren L. No changes of cholesterol levels with a commercially available glucosamine product in patients treated with lipid lowering drugs: a controlled, randomised, open cross-over trial. *BMC Pharmacol Toxicol* 2012;13(1):10.
26. Elder CRG, C. M.; Debar, L. L.; Funk, K. L.; Lindberg, N. M.; Ritenbaugh, C.; Meltesen, G.; Gallison, C.; Stevens, V. J. Randomized trial of Tapas Acupressure Technique for weight loss maintenance. *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2012;12:19.
27. Erler A, Beyer M, Petersen JJ, Saal K, Rath T, Rochon J, et al. How to improve drug dosing for patients with renal impairment in primary care - a cluster-randomized controlled trial. *BMC Fam Pract* 2012;13:91.
28. Eveleth D, Starita C, Tressler C. A 4-week, dose-ranging study comparing the efficacy, safety and tolerability of latanoprost 75, 100 and 125 mug/mL to latanoprost 50 mug/mL (xalatan) in the treatment of primary open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. *BMC Ophthalmol* 2012;12:9.
29. Fairhall NS, C.; Kurrle, S. E.; Lord, S. R.; Lockwood, K.; Cameron, I. D. Effect of a multifactorial interdisciplinary intervention on mobility-related disability in frail older people: randomised controlled trial. *BMC Med* 2012;10:120.
30. Farinas MC, Saravia G, Calvo-Montes J, Benito N, Martinez-Garde JJ, Farinas-Alvarez C, et al. Adherence to recommendations by infectious disease consultants and its influence on outcomes of intravenous antibiotic-treated hospitalized patients. *BMC Infect Dis* 2012;12:292.
31. Farmer AH, W.; Hughes, D.; Prevost, A. T.; Kim, Y.; Craven, A.; Oke, J.; Boase, S.; Selwood, M.; Kellar, I.; Graffy, J.; Griffin, S.; Sutton, S.; Kinmonth, A. L. An explanatory randomised controlled trial of a nurse-led, consultation-based intervention to support patients with adherence to taking glucose lowering medication for type 2 diabetes. *BMC Fam Pract* 2012;13:30.
32. Federici A, Federici G, Milani M. An urea, arginine and carnosine based cream (Ureadin Rx Db ISDIN) shows greater efficacy in the treatment of severe xerosis of the feet in Type 2 diabetic patients in comparison with glycerol-based emollient cream. A randomized, assessor-blinded, controlled trial. *BMC Dermatol* 2012;12:16.

33. Fitzsimons CFB, G.; Gray, S. R.; Nimmo, M. A.; Mutrie, N. Does physical activity counselling enhance the effects of a pedometer-based intervention over the long-term: 12-month findings from the Walking for Wellbeing in the west study. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:206.
34. Galasso OA, E.; Riccelli, D. A.; Gasparini, G. Short-term outcomes of extracorporeal shock wave therapy for the treatment of chronic non-calcific tendinopathy of the supraspinatus: a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:86.
35. Ghoreishi ZE, A.; Djazayeri, A.; Djalali, M.; Golestan, B.; Ayromlou, H.; Hashemzade, S.; Asghari Jafarabadi, M.; Montazeri, V.; Keshavarz, S. A.; Darabi, M. Omega-3 fatty acids are protective against paclitaxel-induced peripheral neuropathy: a randomized double-blind placebo controlled trial. *BMC Cancer* 2012;12:355.
36. Gorini G, Carreras G, Giordano L, Anghinoni E, Iossa A, Coppo A, et al. The Pap smear screening as an occasion for smoking cessation and physical activity counselling: effectiveness of the SPRINT randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:740.
37. Ho SS, Dhaliwal SS, Hills AP, Pal S. The effect of 12 weeks of aerobic, resistance or combination exercise training on cardiovascular risk factors in the overweight and obese in a randomized trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:704.
38. Houry D, Green S, Callahan M. Does mentoring new peer reviewers improve review quality? A randomized trial. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:83.
39. Houshyar KSL, R.; Dobos, G. J.; Kalus, U.; Broecker-Preuss, M.; Rampp, T.; Brinkhaus, B.; Michalsen, A. Effects of phlebotomy-induced reduction of body iron stores on metabolic syndrome: results from a randomized clinical trial. *BMC Med* 2012;10:54.
40. Iida HI, M.; Fujii, T.; Sekino, Y.; Endo, H.; Hosono, K.; Nonaka, T.; Koide, T.; Takahashi, H.; Yoneda, M.; Goto, A.; Abe, Y.; Kobayashi, N.; Kirikoshi, H.; Kubota, K.; Saito, S.; Gotoh, E.; Maeda, S.; Nakajima, A. Early effect of oral administration of omeprazole with mosapride as compared with those of omeprazole alone on the intragastric pH. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2012;12:25.
41. Ijzelenberg WH, I. M.; van Tulder, M. W.; Heymans, M. W.; Rauwerda, J. A.; van Rossum, A. C.; Seidell, J. C. The effect of a comprehensive lifestyle intervention on cardiovascular risk factors in pharmacologically treated patients with stable cardiovascular disease compared to usual care: a randomised controlled trial. *BMC Cardiovasc Disord* 2012;12:71.
42. Ishikawa YH, K.; Saito, H.; Fukuyoshi, J.; Yonekura, A.; Harada, K.; Seki, A.; Shibuya, D.; Nakamura, Y. Cost-effectiveness of a tailored intervention designed to increase breast cancer screening among a non-adherent population: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:760.
43. Jernelov SL, M.; Blom, K.; Rydh, S.; Ljotsson, B.; Axelsson, J.; Kaldo, V. Efficacy of a behavioral self-help treatment with or without therapist guidance for co-morbid and primary insomnia--a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Psychiatry* 2012;12:5.
44. Keller MKT, S. Acid production in dental plaque after exposure to probiotic bacteria. *BMC Oral Health* 2012;12:44.
45. Knobe M, Carow JB, Ruessler M, Leu BM, Simon M, Beckers SK, et al. Arthroscopy or ultrasound in undergraduate anatomy education: a randomized cross-over controlled trial. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:85.
46. Kuhl M, Wagner R, Bauder M, Fenik Y, Riessen R, Lammerding-Koppel M, et al. Student tutors for hands-on training in focused emergency echocardiography--a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:101.
47. Lavalliere MS, M.; Tremblay, M.; Laurendeau, D.; Teasdale, N. Active training and driving-specific feedback improve older drivers' visual search prior to lane changes. *BMC Geriatr* 2012;12:5.
48. Lavender TF, C.; Campbell, M.; Victor, S.; Roberts, I.; Bedwell, C.; Cork, M. J. Effect on skin hydration of using baby wipes to clean the napkin area of newborn babies: assessor-blinded randomised controlled equivalence trial. *BMC Pediatr* 2012;12:59.
49. Leslie WSK, P. R.; Mackenzie, M.; Murray, H. M.; Boyle, S.; Lean, M. E.; Walker, A.; Hankey, C. R. Changes in body weight and food choice in those attempting smoking cessation: a cluster randomised controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:389.

50. Li SY, Li JS, Wang MH, Xie Y, Yu XQ, Sun ZK, et al. Effects of comprehensive therapy based on traditional Chinese medicine patterns in stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a four-center, open-label, randomized, controlled study. *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2012;12:197.
51. Lippold CM, T.; Drerup, B.; Schilgen, M.; Vegh, A.; Danesh, G. Spine deviations and orthodontic treatment of asymmetric malocclusions in children. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:151.
52. Mascarin NCV, R. L.; Andrade, M. L.; Magalhaes Ede, P.; de Lira, C. A.; Coimbra, I. B. Effects of kinesiotherapy, ultrasound and electrotherapy in management of bilateral knee osteoarthritis: prospective clinical trial. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:182.
53. Monse B, Duijster D, Sheiham A, Grijalva-Eternod CS, van Palenstein Helderma W, Hobdell MH. The effects of extraction of pulpally involved primary teeth on weight, height and BMI in underweight Filipino children. A cluster randomized clinical trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:725.
54. Moretti BN, A.; Moretti, L.; Setti, S.; De Terlizzi, F.; Pesce, V.; Patella, V. I-ONE therapy in patients undergoing total knee arthroplasty: a prospective, randomized and controlled study. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:88.
55. Morgulis YK, R. K.; Lindeman, R.; Velan, G. M. Impact on learning of an e-learning module on leukaemia: a randomised controlled trial. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:36.
56. Nahar B, Hossain MI, Hamadani JD, Ahmed T, Grantham-McGregor S, Persson LA. Effects of psychosocial stimulation on improving home environment and child-rearing practices: results from a community-based trial among severely malnourished children in Bangladesh. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:622.
57. Navvabi Rigi SK, F.; Navidian, A.; Safabakhsh, L.; Safarzadeh, A.; Khazaian, S.; Shafie, S.; Salehian, T. Comparing the analgesic effect of heat patch containing iron chip and ibuprofen for primary dysmenorrhea: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Womens Health* 2012;12:25.
58. Nkenke EV, E.; Bauersachs, A.; Eitner, S.; Budach, A.; Knipfer, C.; Stelzle, F. Acceptance of technology-enhanced learning for a theoretical radiological science course: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:18.
59. O'Brien KC, C.; Brown, L.; Wenger, L.; Shah, V. Infant flow biphasic nasal continuous positive airway pressure (BP- NCPAP) vs. infant flow NCPAP for the facilitation of extubation in infants' <math>\leq</math> 1,250 grams: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Pediatr* 2012;12:43.
60. Oude Hengel KMB, B. M.; Joling, C. I.; van der Beek, A. J.; Bongers, P. M. Effectiveness of an intervention at construction worksites on work engagement, social support, physical workload, and need for recovery: results from a cluster randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:1008.
61. Panella MM, S.; Brambilla, R.; Vanhaecht, K.; Di Stanislao, F. A cluster randomized trial to assess the effect of clinical pathways for patients with stroke: results of the clinical pathways for effective and appropriate care study. *BMC Med* 2012;10:71.
62. Park JHM, M.; Kwon, Y. C.; Park, H. T.; Kim, E. H.; Park, J. K.; Park, K. B.; Yoon, S. R.; Chung, J. W.; Nakamura, Y.; Park, S. K. A 12-week after-school physical activity programme improves endothelial cell function in overweight and obese children: a randomised controlled study. *BMC Pediatr* 2012;12:111.
63. Patja K, Absetz P, Auvinen A, Tokola K, Kyto J, Oksman E, et al. Health coaching by telephony to support self-care in chronic diseases: clinical outcomes from The TERVA randomized controlled trial. *BMC Health Serv Res* 2012;12:147.
64. Patten SB, Remillard A, Phillips L, Modgill G, Szeto A, Kassam A, et al. Effectiveness of contact-based education for reducing mental illness-related stigma in pharmacy students. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:120.
65. Pectasides DP, G.; Kalogeras, K. T.; Eleftheraki, A. G.; Xanthakis, I.; Makatsoris, T.; Samantas, E.; Varthalitis, I.; Papakostas, P.; Nikitas, N.; Papandreou, C. N.; Pentheroudakis, G.; Timotheadou, E.; Koutras, A.; Sgouros, J.; Bafaloukos, D.; Klouvas, G.; Economopoulos, T.; Syrigos, K. N.; Fountzilias, G. XELIRI-bevacizumab versus FOLFIRI-bevacizumab as first-line treatment in patients with metastatic

colorectal cancer: a Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group phase III trial with collateral biomarker analysis. *BMC Cancer* 2012;12:271.

66. Pouchain DB, M. A.; Liard, F.; Childs, M.; Decaudin, A.; McVey, D. Gaviscon(R) vs. omeprazole in symptomatic treatment of moderate gastroesophageal reflux. a direct comparative randomised trial. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2012;12:18.

67. Pusic MV, MacDonald WA, Eisman HO, Black JB. Reinforcing outpatient medical student learning using brief computer tutorials: the Patient-Teacher-Tutorial sequence. *BMC Med Educ* 2012;12:70.

68. Ratanasukon MB, P.; Jirattanasopa, P. High-dose antioxidants for central serous chorioretinopathy; the randomized placebo-controlled study. *BMC Ophthalmol* 2012;12:20.

69. Reijonsaari KV, A.; Kahilakoski, O. P.; van Mechelen, W.; Aro, T.; Taimela, S. The effectiveness of physical activity monitoring and distance counseling in an occupational setting - results from a randomized controlled trial (CoAct). *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:344.

70. Renken FR, S.; Paech, A.; Wenzl, M.; Unger, A.; Schulz, A. P. Early functional results after hemiarthroplasty for femoral neck fracture: a randomized comparison between a minimal invasive and a conventional approach. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:141.

71. Rise MB, Eriksen L, Grimstad H, Steinsbekk A. The short-term effect on alliance and satisfaction of using patient feedback scales in mental health out-patient treatment. A randomised controlled trial. *BMC Health Serv Res* 2012;12:348.

72. Rocheleau CMR, P. A.; Sherlock, S. H.; Sanderson, W. T.; Bell, E. M.; Druschel, C. Effect of survey instrument on participation in a follow-up study: a randomization study of a mailed questionnaire versus a computer-assisted telephone interview. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:579.

73. Sakurai K, Nagahara A, Inoue K, Akiyama J, Mabe K, Suzuki J, et al. Efficacy of omeprazole, famotidine, mosapride and teprenone in patients with upper gastrointestinal symptoms: an omeprazole-controlled randomized study (J-FOCUS). *BMC Gastroenterol* 2012;12:42.

74. Savino F, Viola S, Erasmo M, Di Nardo G, Oliva S, Cucchiara S. Efficacy and tolerability of peg-only laxative on faecal impaction and chronic constipation in children. A controlled double blind randomized study vs a standard peg-electrolyte laxative. *BMC Pediatr* 2012;12:178.

75. Selvaraj FJ, Mohamed M, Omar K, Nanthan S, Kusiar Z, Subramaniam SY, et al. The impact of a disease management program (COACH) on the attainment of better cardiovascular risk control in dyslipidaemic patients at primary care centres (The DISSEMINATE Study): a randomised controlled trial. *BMC Fam Pract* 2012;13:97.

76. Shamah Levy TMR, C.; Amaya Castellanos, C.; Salazar Coronel, A.; Jimenez Aguilar, A.; Mendez Gomez Humaran, I. Effectiveness of a diet and physical activity promotion strategy on the prevention of obesity in Mexican school children. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:152.

77. Sharif FS, M.; Mani, A. Effect of a psycho-educational intervention for family members on caregiver burdens and psychiatric symptoms in patients with schizophrenia in Shiraz, Iran. *BMC Psychiatry* 2012;12:48.

78. Sharif FS, A.; Janati, M.; Kojuri, J.; Zare, N. The effect of cardiac rehabilitation on anxiety and depression in patients undergoing cardiac bypass graft surgery in Iran. *BMC Cardiovasc Disord* 2012;12:40.

79. Songprakun WM, T. V. Effectiveness of a self-help manual on the promotion of resilience in individuals with depression in Thailand: a randomised controlled trial. *BMC Psychiatry* 2012;12:12.

80. Stocks NA, J.; Frank, O.; Williams, S.; Ryan, P. Improving attendance for cardiovascular risk assessment in Australian general practice: an RCT of a monetary incentive for patients. *BMC Fam Pract* 2012;13:54.

81. Suess TR, C.; Schink, S. B.; Schweiger, B.; Nitsche, A.; Schroeder, K.; Doellinger, J.; Milde, J.; Haas, W.; Koehler, I.; Krause, G.; Buchholz, U. The role of facemasks and hand hygiene in the prevention of influenza transmission in households: results from a cluster randomised trial; Berlin, Germany, 2009-2011. *BMC Infect Dis* 2012;12:26.

82. Sugama JS, H.; Shigeta, Y.; Nakagami, G.; Konya, C. Efficacy of an improved absorbent pad on incontinence-associated dermatitis in older women: cluster randomized controlled trial. *BMC Geriatr* 2012;12:22.
83. Tiessen AHS, A. J.; Broer, J.; Groenier, K. H.; van der Meer, K. Randomized controlled trial on cardiovascular risk management by practice nurses supported by self-monitoring in primary care. *BMC Fam Pract* 2012;13:90.
84. Tsai YF, Luo CF, Illias A, Lin CC, Yu HP. Nasogastric tube insertion in anesthetized and intubated patients: a new and reliable method. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2012;12:99.
85. Waldvogel SP, B.; Vaucher, P.; Bize, R.; Cornuz, J.; Tissot, J. D.; Favrat, B. Clinical evaluation of iron treatment efficiency among non-anemic but iron-deficient female blood donors: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Med* 2012;10:8.
86. Whelton HK, R.; O'Mullane, D.; Nilsson, F. Randomized controlled trial to evaluate tooth stain reduction with nicotine replacement gum during a smoking cessation program. *BMC Oral Health* 2012;12:13.
87. Wilkinson SA, McIntyre HD. Evaluation of the 'healthy start to pregnancy' early antenatal health promotion workshop: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth* 2012;12:131.
88. Williams EDB, D.; Forbes, A. W.; Russell, A.; Ash, S.; Friedman, R.; Scuffham, P. A.; Oldenburg, B. Randomised controlled trial of an automated, interactive telephone intervention (TLC Diabetes) to improve type 2 diabetes management: baseline findings and six-month outcomes. *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:602.
89. Wlodarczyk Z, Vanrenterghem Y, Kramer BK, Squifflet JP, Ostrowski M. A multicenter, randomized, double-blind study comparing different FK778 doses (manitimus) with tacrolimus and steroids vs. MMF with tacrolimus and steroids in renal transplantation. *BMC Nephrol* 2012;13:68.
90. Yang JLC, S. Y.; Hsieh, C. L.; Lin, J. J. Effects and predictors of shoulder muscle massage for patients with posterior shoulder tightness. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord* 2012;13:46.
91. Yang JZ, F.; Feng, Y.; Fang, L.; Qin, W.; Liu, X.; Song, W.; Xie, H.; Chen, J.; Liang, F. A PET-CT study on the specificity of acupoints through acupuncture treatment in migraine patients. *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2012;12:123.
92. Yen HHY, C. W.; Su, W. W.; Soon, M. S.; Wu, S. S.; Lin, H. J. Oral versus intravenous proton pump inhibitors in preventing re-bleeding for patients with peptic ulcer bleeding after successful endoscopic therapy. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2012;12:66.
93. Ziegenfuss JYB, K. R.; Harris, A.; Holubar, S. D.; Beebe, T. J. Telephone follow-up to a mail survey: when to offer an interview compared to a reminder call. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 2012;12:32.



**Appendix 4: Examples of the type of methodological changes requested by peer reviewers and author responses**

<p><b>BLINDING – positive impact on reporting</b></p> <p>Peer review comments:  <i>“Please clarify how was blinding procedure (participants, practitioners and outcome assessors) implemented?”</i></p> <p>Author response:  <i>“Outcome assessments were made by independent clinician blinded to group allocation and uninvolved in providing intervention or management.”</i></p>
<p><b>RANDOMIZATION - no impact on reporting</b></p> <p>Peer review comments:  <i>“Concealment (or lack thereof) needs to be specified further.”</i></p> <p>Author response:  <i>“Both expert echocardiographers and student tutors introduced themselves with their first names only and did not mention their qualifications. We added this information in the methods section.”</i></p>
<p><b>SAMPLE SIZE - positive impact on reporting</b></p> <p>Peer review comments:  <i>“From where did the hypothesis of a 5% group difference arise? Is there a clinical basis for this decision? The authors should justify.”</i></p> <p>Author response:  <i>“Due to space considerations we left out the ‘workings’ for our sample size calculations. The 5% difference was drawn from the literature and our previous research. We provide a summarised version of this in our manuscript”</i></p>
<p><b>PRIMARY AND SECONDARY OUTCOMES - positive impact on reporting</b></p> <p>Peer review comments:  <i>“In terms of the reporting – there are a large number of primary outcome measures – it isn’t clear from the published protocol exactly which were primary. This needs clarifying.”</i></p> <p>Author response:  <i>“The primary outcome measure used in the power calculation of this study was the Copenhagen Risk Score (CRS). We used a European risk calculation programme named PRECARD to calculate the absolute risk of CVD. The CRS is based on age, gender, BMI, history of CVD, Diabetes Mellitus, smoking status, systolic blood pressure, HDL and total cholesterol levels. We added text to clarify this in the text”.</i></p>
<p><b>ADDITIONAL ANALYSES - negative impact on reporting</b></p> <p>Peer review comment:  <i>“Since the blood pressure lowering and vessel-dilating effect may be more significant in hypertensive patients than in normal blood pressure patients, the results may be more persuasive if including only mildly hypertensive patients.”</i></p> <p>Author response:  <i>“This is an excellent point. We have performed a sensitivity analysis to look for any response differences between participants with highest and lowest blood pressure, and have added the following text to the results section.”</i></p>
<p><b>ADDITIONAL ANALYSES – negative comment with no impact on reporting</b></p> <p>Peer review comment:  <i>“Why was no statistical analysis between the groups performed? It would be interesting to know if there were significant differences between Group A day 42 and Group B day 203.”</i></p>

Author response:

*"No statistical analysis was performed between these groups because the study was not powered to assess this aspect, thus no conclusion can be drawn based on this exploratory analysis performed on the available sample size."*

**CONCLUSION - positive impact on reporting**

Peer review comment:

*"As regards the results, the conclusion is not actually borne out in the study. If there are no differences between the two interventions, one cannot conclude that one intervention is better than another."*

Author response:

*"We have altered the text to make clear that we are not making any false conclusions."*

**ADHERENCE TO REPORTING GUIDELINE - positive impact on reporting**

Peer review comment:

*"Adhere to CONSORT guidelines in more detail particularly in the results and discussion section accordingly to the information in the following link .."*

Author response:

*"The structure of the paper has been revised according to the CONSORT statement: extension to cluster randomised trials. The results section has been detailed as it follows ...."*

**1 LINE COMMENT - no impact on reporting**

Peer review comment:

*"The article is complete at the moment, there is no necessary another information."*