CONSORT-EHEALTH Checklist V1.6.2 Report	Manuscript Number	10955
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by		
Nur-Ain Nadir		
A randomized control trial of the impact of an electronic application on resident responses to simulated in-flight medical emergencies		
TITLE		
1a-i) Identify the mode of delivery in the title		
Yes" " A randomized control trial of the impact of an electronic application on resident responses to simulated in-flight medical emergencies"		
1a-ii) Non-web-based components or important co-interventions in title		
Yes: " This was a randomized study of volunteer, non-emergency resident physician subjects who managed simulated IFMEs with or without the app. "		
1a-iii) Primary condition or target group in the title		
Yes: "This was a randomized study of volunteer, non-emergency resident physician subjects who managed simulated IFMEs with or without the app."		
ABSTRACT		
1b-i) Key features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT		
No. This study was not focusing on the functionality aspects of the app.		
1b-ii) Level of human involvement in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT		
1b-iii) Open vs. closed, web-based (self-assessment) vs. face-to-face assessments in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT		
Not applicable to this study		
1b-iv) RESULTS section in abstract must contain use data		
Yes.		
1b-v) CONCLUSIONS/DISCUSSION in abstract for negative trials		
Not applicable to this study		
INTRODUCTION		
2a-i) Problem and the type of system/solution		

Yes.

" Epidemiologic evidence for in-flight medical emergencies (IFMEs) from a ground-based medical support system estimated that medical emergencies occur in 1 of every 604 flights [1]. This is likely an underestimate, because no mandatory reporting system exists and uncomplicated issues often go unreported [2]. Air travel is increasing, with 895.5 million passengers flying in 2015 [3], leading to increased frequency of IFMEs. In one study, 42% of 418 healthcare providers surveyed reported being called upon to give aid in an IFME [4]. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandates that United States-based airlines carry basic first-aid kits stocked with bandages and splints, and at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) must be available [5]. Beyond the basic kit, no national or international standards exist, though there have been recent calls for consistency [6.7]. Healthcare personnel are also unlikely to be familiar with medical kit contents, flight crew communication and medical emergency protocols [4]. Clinicians' expertise typically consists of their specialty training and life support courses. Emergency response training is often limited as emergency medicine is not a mandatory rotation in medical education [8]. Though helpful, ground-based medical consultation support services (ground medical control) still depend on volunteers to be their "eves and ears" [9,10]. The assumption is that volunteers will find and report clinical information relevant to the presenting medical emergency [10]. Comfort attending to an IFME is likely to vary substantially across provider backgrounds. Thus, there is a need for education about the environment, and scenario-based basic IFME response training. In recent months, the aviation and healthcare industries have recognized this and called for education in emergency stabilization and flight medicine at both graduate and undergraduate levels [12,13]. Although several authors have discussed the management of in-flight emergencies [14-19], little real-time decision support exists outside of ground medical control. Normal emergency response smartphone applications (apps) or cognitive aids may not take the environment into account. In response to this perceived need, a smartphone app was designed by emergency, aerospace medicine, and radiology physicians (airRx) [20] to assist licensed healthcare personnel in dealing with the most common IFMEs. The app offers complaint-specific recommended actions, care algorithms, and in-the-moment information regarding the likely available medications. While serving as a real-time decision support reference, the app also provides a method of just-intime-training (JITT) [21]. Pertinently, the JITT approach has been successful in on-the-iob training for first responders in unfamiliar situations [22]. Studies have also shown that smartphone based cognitive aids promote adherence to protocols in both real and simulated clinical scenarios [23-25]. A JITT-based smart phone cognitive aid/application is therefore, a reasonable approach to delivering focused learning during an IFME. The objective of this study was to determine usefulness of the airRx smartphone application in responding to simulated IFMEs. Our secondary objective was to examine whether access to the airRx app would increase confidence to respond to an IFME." 2a-ii) Scientific background, rationale: What is known about the (type of) system

Yes:	
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in 1 of every 604 flights [1]. This is likely an underestimate, because no mandatory reporting system exists and uncomplicated issues often go unreported	
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Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 2b?	
bues your paper address condotri subitem zo:	

Yes: "Epidemiologic evidence for in-flight medical emergencies (IFMS) from a ground-based medical support system estimated that medical emergencies occur in 1 of every 604 flights [1]. This is likely an underestimate, because no mandatory reporting system exists and uncomplicated issues often go unreported [2]. Air travel is increasing, with 895.5 million passengers flying in 2015 [3], leading to increased frequency of IFMEs. In one study, 42% of 418 healthcare providers surveyed reported being called upon to give aid in an IFME [4]. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandates that United States-based airlines carry basic first-aid kits stocked with bandages and splints, and at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) must be available [5]. Beyond the basic kit, no national or international standards exist, though there have been recent calls for consistency [6,7]. Healthcare personnel are also unlikely to be familiar with medical kit contents, flight crew communication and medical emergency response training is often limited as emergency medicine is not a mandatory rotation in medical education [8]. Though helpful, ground- based medical consultation support services (ground medical control) still depend on volunteers to be their "eyes and ears" [9,10]. The assumption is that volunteers will find and report clinical information relevant to the presenting medical emergency [10]. Comfort attending to an IFME is likely to vary substantially across provider backgrounds. Thus, there is a need for education about the environment, and scenario-based basic IFME response training. In recent months, the aviation and healthcare industries have recognized this and called for education in emergency stabilization and flight medicine at both graduate and undergraduate levels [12,13]. Although several authors have discussed the management of in-flight emergencies [14-19], little real-time decision support take the environment, ind account. In response to this perceived need, a smartphone app was designed by emer	
METHODS	
3a) CONSORT: Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio	
Yes: "This was a prospective randomized control trial. Fifty-eight subjects were block randomized by post-graduate year and specialty area to simulated IFMEs with and without access to a smart device application."	
3b) CONSORT: Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons	
No changes to methods were made.	
3b-i) Bug fixes, Downtimes, Content Changes	
Not applicable	
4a) CONSORT: Eligibility criteria for participants	
"Subjects were solicited from non-emergency medicine residency programs including Diagnostic Radiology, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Combined Medicine-Pediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Emergency medicine residents were excluded given their expertise and training in management of emergencies. Subjects' performances were kept confidential. They were compensated through a \$25 gift card and a copy of the airRx application at no cost to them. Subjects were instructed to keep the scenarios confidential to minimize the relay of scenario information to future participants. "	
4a-i) Computer / Internet literacy	

No this was not deemed relevant for this study	
4a-ii) Open vs. closed, web-based vs. face-to-face assessments:	
Yes:	
"Subjects were solicited from non-emergency medicine residency programs including Diagnostic Radiology, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics,	
Psychiatry, Combined Medicine-Pediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Emergency medicine residents were excluded given their expertise and training	
in management of emergencies. Subjects' performances were kept confidential. They were compensated through a \$25 gift card and a copy of the airRx	
application at no cost to them. Subjects were instructed to keep the scenarios confidential to minimize the relay of scenario information to future	
participants. "	
4a-iii) Information giving during recruitment	
Yes.	
"All subjects were pre-briefed via a standardized script. Both the control and intervention groups were allowed to use any other phone apps they had on	
their personal smart device that would be accessible during airplane mode. The application group had up to 15 minutes to familiarize themselves with the	
app. Both groups were aware that the simulation topic was IFME. Scenarios began with the subjects sitting in the simulated cabin with a brief pause before	
flight attendants announced the IFME and called for assistance. "	
4b) CONSORT: Settings and locations where the data were collected	
Yes: "The study took place at a university hospital affiliated simulation center. Space and movement limits that mimicked the floor distances of a Boeing 737	
aircraft were created within a simulation lab with audiovisual recording capability. "	
4b-i) Report if outcomes were (self-)assessed through online questionnaires	
Yes."We also created pre-post simulation surveys for participants to self-assess their readiness for IFMEs, knowledge of resources, medico-legal concerns, crew integration, IFME communications process, and willingness to respond. Surveys were pilot tested for clarity, and usability questions (app group only)	
were derived from a previously developed technology usability survey"	
4b-ii) Report how institutional affiliations are displayed	
Not relevant	
5) CONSORT: Describe the interventions for each group with sufficient details to allow replication, including how and when they were actually	
administered	
5-i) Mention names, credential, affiliations of the developers, sponsors, and owners	
Yes.	
5-ii) Describe the history/development process	
This was not relevant to this study.	
5-iii) Revisions and updating	
Not applicable	
5-iv) Quality assurance methods	
Not applicable to this study	
5-v) Ensure replicability by publishing the source code, and/or providing screenshots/screen-capture video, and/or providing flowcharts of the	
algorithms used	
Not applicable	
5-vi) Digital preservation	
Not applicable	
5-vii) Access	
Yes: "All subjects were pre-briefed via a standardized script. Both the control and intervention groups were allowed to use any other phone apps they had	
on their personal smart device that would be accessible during airplane mode. The application group had up to 15 minutes to familiarize themselves with	
the app. Both groups were aware that the simulation topic was IFME"	
5-viii) Mode of delivery, features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator, and the theoretical framework	

This is an use not dependent The Approximation and exceeded by such are they merchy tested its utility.	
This item was not deemed relevant. The App was not created by authors, they merely tested its utility	
5-ix) Describe use parameters	
NOt important	
5-x) Clarify the level of human involvement	
The App is meant to be used for Inflight Medical emergencies. "The simulation center has a cadre of standardized participants (SPs) who undergo general and scenario-specific orientation. The SPs went through dry runs of each scenario, received feedback on their performance, and were given ear buds for	
prompts in real-time. In each scenario there was one SP passenger who became ill and one SP passenger bystander who had relevant information if	
asked. Stable actor cohorts played these roles. Pathologic physical exam findings were given on cue through pre-written cards from the bystander SP, as	
healthy patient SPs could not mimic symptoms such as wheezing.	
For each case there were also two SP flight attendants who communicated with the investigators in the simulation control room ("pilot" and "ground medical	
support"), and relayed responses to the participants. Real flight attendants trained SPs to portray flight attendant roles through direct observations of their	
performance in pilot simulations, video review, and discussion of planned responses to questions. In order to isolate subject performances, we instructed	
the flight attendants to be helpful and follow directions, but wait to inform ground medical control until instructed. Thus, we controlled for variable airline protocols, flight attendant training, and individual responses expected in real life.	
"	
5-xi) Report any prompts/reminders used	
No prompts were used to elicit subjects to use the app.	
5-xii) Describe any co-interventions (incl. training/support)	
Not applicable to this study.	
6a) CONSORT: Completely defined pre-specified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed	
Yes. "The main measures assessed were subject CL completion rates, GRS, time to critical actions, and pre-post simulation confidence surveys. "	
6a-i) Online questionnaires: describe if they were validated for online use and apply CHERRIES items to describe how the questionnaires were designed/deployed	
Not applicable to this study.	
6a-ii) Describe whether and how "use" (including intensity of use/dosage) was defined/measured/monitored	
not applicable	
6a-iii) Describe whether, how, and when qualitative feedback from participants was obtained	
not applicable	
6b) CONSORT: Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons	
Yes: "The study took place at a university hospital affiliated simulation center. Space and movement limits that mimicked the floor distances of a Boeing 737	
aircraft were created within a simulation lab with audiovisual recording capability. "	
7a) CONSORT: How sample size was determined	
7a-i) Describe whether and how expected attrition was taken into account when calculating the sample size	
"Sample size estimation was difficult due to unknown performance expectations, standard deviations,	
and effect sizes. However, we prospectively estimated our sample size to be 74 total, or 37 per group, to have an 80% chance (power = 0.80) of detecting a 20% improved performance overall in the CL, with an assumed standard deviation of 30%."	
7b) CONSORT: When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	
Yes. "The main measures assessed were subject CL completion rates, GRS, time to critical actions, and pre-post simulation confidence surveys. "	
8a) CONSORT: Method used to generate the random allocation sequence "Fifty-eight subjects were block randomized by post-graduate year and specialty area to simulated IFMEs with and without access to a smart device	
application. "	
8b) CONSORT: Type of randomisation; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)	
"Fifty-eight subjects were block randomized by post-graduate year and specialty area to simulated IFMEs with and without access to a smart device	
application. "	

9) CONSORT: Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned	
Block randomization was performed through pulling names from a container but has not been explained in detail in the paper.	
10) CONSORT: Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions	
Research coordinator who was blinded to participants other than their initials and PGY levels	
11a) CONSORT: Blinding - If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those assessing	
outcomes) and how	
11a-i) Specify who was blinded, and who wasn't	
Only the research coordinator who was in charge of block randomization was blinded but not the actual evaluators who were evaluating the intervention.	
11a-ii) Discuss e.g., whether participants knew which intervention was the "intervention of interest" and which one was the "comparator"	
Yes. participants were aware of this.	
11b) CONSORT: If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions	
not applicable	
12a) CONSORT: Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	
"All statistical tests were performed against a two-sided alternative hypothesis with a significance level of 5% (a = 0.05) using R version 3.2.5 or latest	
version. Inter-rater reliability was calculated using Gwet's AC1 (Agreement Coefficient 1) which is capable of handling more than two raters and response	
categories. The proportion of participants to complete each action, treated as binary variables, were compared using chi-square analysis or Fisher's exact	
test as appropriate. In addition, the percentage of applicable completed actions was averaged between raters and compared between groups using	
independent sample t-tests. The Likert type global competency ratings and response times for the timed critical actions were not normally distributed, so	
both were compared using non-parametric Wilcoxon rank sum tests. Demographics were analyzed between groups using chi-square or Fisher's exact test	
as appropriate. Mean ratings on the pre and post simulation surveys were analyzed using linear mixed model. A log transformation was used as needed to meet model assumptions."	
12a-i) Imputation techniques to deal with attrition / missing values	
not applicable to this study	
12b) CONSORT: Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses	
Not applicable to this stuyd.	
RESULTS	
13a) CONSORT: For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for	
the primary outcome	
27 per group.	
13b) CONSORT: For each group, losses and exclusions after randomisation, together with reasons	
Not applicable to this study	
13b-i) Attrition diagram	
Not applicable	
14a) CONSORT: Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up	
Not applicable.	
14a-i) Indicate if critical "secular events" fell into the study period	
Not applicable	
14b) CONSORT: Why the trial ended or was stopped (early)	
Yes. "The study was stopped after interim analysis (29 subjects per arm) due to resource constraints. "	
15) CONSORT: A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group	
Included in paper.	
15-i) Report demographics associated with digital divide issues	

NOt applicable	
16a) CONSORT: For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original	
assigned groups	
16-i) Report multiple "denominators" and provide definitions	
Not applicable	
16-ii) Primary analysis should be intent-to-treat	
Not applicable	
17a) CONSORT: For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)	
Not applicable	
17a-i) Presentation of process outcomes such as metrics of use and intensity of use	
Not applicable	
17b) CONSORT: For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended	
Not applicable	
18) CONSORT: Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from	
exploratory	
NOt applicable	
18-i) Subgroup analysis of comparing only users	
Not applicable	
19) CONSORT: All important harms or unintended effects in each group	
Not applicable	
19-i) Include privacy breaches, technical problems	
Not applicable	
19-ii) Include qualitative feedback from participants or observations from staff/researchers	
NOt applicable	
DISCUSSION	
20) CONSORT: Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, multiplicity of analyses	
20-i) Typical limitations in ehealth trials	
"Our limitations include the small amount of time learners interacted with the app prior to using it. We gave subjects 15 minutes to familiarize themselves with the app, and chose this given average taxi-out times of 16.2 minutes [31]. Our simulation scenarios were relatively short at 8 minutes each (arrived at through pilot testing), and extra time might have given either group a chance to meet missed CL items. We did not control for the confounding variable of other app usage, and while we did not formally track this, we noted very little alternate healthcare app use. While it is difficult to know how actual real world	
performance would progress, our gestalt was that the environment, cases, and witnessed performance were quite credible. Our relayed via cabin crew communication method for ground medical support was held constant and mimics that found on many airlines, but there is no standard expectation. We	
expect changing technology and situational urgency will alter the method of communication. We also did not analyze for standardized participant effects, but we had nearly the same cohort throughout the entire project. We did not blind the raters as it was clear due to the application use in view. In hindsight,	
we could have given both groups the same device to create partial blinding. We anticipated a case order effect and we kept our case order the same for this reason. We did not take a G-theory approach to looking at the variability in case, case order, standardized participants, and raters, in part because sample size would have been prohibitively large.	
21) CONSORT: Generalisability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings	
21-i) Generalizability to other populations	

"Our limitations include the small amount of time learners interacted with the app prior to using it. We gave subjects 15 minutes to familiarize themselves with the app, and chose this given average taxi-out times of 16.2 minutes [31]. Our simulation scenarios were relatively short at 8 minutes each (arrived at through pilot testing), and extra time might have given either group a chance to meet missed CL items. We did not control for the confounding variable of other app usage, and while we did not formally track this, we noted very little alternate healthcare app use. While it is difficult to know how actual real world performance would progress, our gestalt was that the environment, cases, and witnessed performance were quite credible. Our relayed via cabin crew communication method for ground medical support was held constant and mimics that found on many airlines, but there is no standard expectation. We expect changing technology and situational urgency will alter the method of communication. We also did not analyze for standardized participant effects, but we had nearly the same cohort throughout the entire project. We did not blind the raters as it was clear due to the application use in view. In hindsight, we could have given both groups the same device to create partial blinding. We anticipated a case order effect and we kept our case order the same for this reason. We did not take a G-theory approach to looking at the variability in case, case order, standardized participants, and raters, in part because sample size would have been prohibitively large. "	
21-ii) Discuss if there were elements in the RCT that would be different in a routine application setting	
not applicable	
22) CONSORT: Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence	
22-i) Restate study questions and summarize the answers suggested by the data, starting with primary outcomes and process outcomes (use)	
"We successfully simulated in flight medical emergencies (IFME) by recreating space constraints, communications barriers, and equipment limitations present on a mobile aircraft. We noted improved performance in actions where the app encouraged communication with flight crew and ground medical support. The app helps ensure that the proper questions are asked of patients, which may yield more fruitful conversations with ground medical control, and improve treatments administered. "	
22-ii) Highlight unanswered new questions, suggest future research	
Not applicable	
Other information	
23) CONSORT: Registration number and name of trial registry	
not applicable	
24) CONSORT: Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available	
not applicable	
25) CONSORT: Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders	
"This work was conducted at Jump Simulation, a collaboration of OSF HealthCare and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. The Illinois Corporation, AirRx, is a non-profit foundation with 501-c3 status. AirRx owns the app, airRx, and supported the research by providing standardized patient meals and gift cards to participating subjects. AirRx also received funds from the period of time where it was selling the app, which partially defrayed the costs of app development. The airRx app has subsequently become free on both Android and iOS platforms."	
X26-i) Comment on ethics committee approval	
"This study design was approved by the local Institutional Review Board. "	
x26-ii) Outline informed consent procedures	
Included within the paper.	
X26-iii) Safety and security procedures	
not applicable	
X27-i) State the relation of the study team towards the system being evaluated	
"This work was conducted at Jump Simulation, a collaboration of OSF HealthCare and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. The Illinois Corporation, AirRx, is a non-profit foundation with 501-c3 status. AirRx owns the app, airRx, and supported the research by providing standardized patient meals and gift cards to participating subjects. AirRx also received funds from the period of time where it was selling the app, which partially defrayed the costs of app development. The airRx app has subsequently become free on both Android and iOS platforms."	