

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Thank you for your submission to mHealth. This paper explores the experiences of older adults with visual impairments or blindness in using mHealth apps to manage their health and well-being. Focus group interviews were conducted to gather the older users' perspectives on the features and menus mHealth apps could/should have in order to be appropriate not just for users with visual impairments but also just generally accessible for all users, regardless of disability status.

This manuscript is well-written, covering important points about BVI older peoples' recommendations for improving the usability and accessibility of mHealth apps for health self-management. The authors' goals for this study are aligned with recent adoption of co-design methods taking place in the mHealth arena and more specifically with older individuals and those with disabilities. Although the approach and findings in this paper are not particularly innovative or novel, nevertheless there is a gap that it fills in the literature in addressing mHealth for BVI users in older age groups. I have compiled a few minor comments and suggestions for the authors to consider:

Introduction

-Although the research questions (and paper title etc) indicate that this paper is studying older adults, in actuality the study population includes both late-midlife and older adults (i.e., not just older adults). The authors should acknowledge this early on in their paper and operationally define their target population. If they choose to continue using "older adults" or other similar terms for the remainder of the paper for ease and brevity, they can simply say something like "...our focus is on late-midlife and older people, hereafter referred to as "older users..." In addressing this issue, the authors should be mindful of everywhere it may impact such as the title, abstract, sample description and so on.

Response: Thank you for your valuable feedback regarding the terminology used to describe our target audience. Acknowledging that our research participants are primarily middle-aged and older, we have incorporated your suggestion for clarity. Consequently, we have added the following sentence to the conclusion of the Introduction section: "This study primarily focuses on low-vision and blind individuals in late-midlife and beyond, who will henceforth be referred to as 'older users.'" (Please kindly review the submitted docx file "R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 7, lines 116-117)"

-Perhaps in this context of discussing older individuals with impairments like BVI, the concept/framework of "resilient aging" may be more aligned with this population rather than "successful aging." (section 1.2)

Response: Thank you for recommending the more fitting concept/framework of resilient aging. I have adopted this approach in place of the successful aging concept, as detailed on page 6, line 89 (Please kindly review the submitted docx file "R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx."). The reference has also been updated accordingly.

*New citation: [10] Fry PS, Keyes CL, eds. New Frontiers in Resilient Aging: Life-Strengths and

Well-Being in Late Life. Cambridge University Press; 2010.

Methods

-Focus group interview method is well justified for this study and the analytical approach appears sound.

Results

-It is unclear if the sentence in 232 “Their predilection for Apple products predominantly stems...” was a theme gathered from participants or something assumed based on general knowledge of BVI consumers. The same question stands for the subsequent sentence (L 235). Reword these to make it clear that these are sentiments expressed by participants or if this just comes from the literature/consumer reports. If the latter, include citations.

Response: Thank you for your valuable feedback regarding the unclear descriptions in the Results section. In response to your comments, I have revised the wording for clarity:

“The participants’ strong inclination towards Apple products predominantly...”

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 9, lines 173-176)

Discussion

-Line 817: I am not entirely sure what the authors mean here by customizability being “newly identified.” The desire for or utility of customizable information/design in mHealth apps for older adults is not a novel finding (if that is what is meant by “newly”). For instance, Yu, Parmanto, and Dicianno 2019 found that customized features were highest priority for persons with dexterity impairments. Moreover, tailored messaging based on health/functional status has also been shown in other works such as in Schepens Niemiec, Wagas, Vigen et al., 2022. Please clarify what is meant by newly identified and include appropriate citations in terms of how that aligns with other literature.

Response: Thank you for your feedback. I have removed “newly” from the sentence. Our goal is to highlight the significance of this discovery for visually impaired users, specifically in the realm of mHealth user experience and interface design.

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 31, line 651.)

-Line 831: The authors list the 8 themes that arose from the study here. It would be beneficial to expand just slightly on a couple of the themes’ labels here to ensure that the theme is adequately described (with brevity still in mind). For instance, the theme of “toolbar” doesn’t make sense as a standalone, so it might be fixed by just adding “addition of a toolbar” or something like that. This is also true for the “data export” theme. Perhaps “option for data export”?

Response: Thank you for your insightful and detailed feedback regarding the labeling of the themes. Based on your suggestions, we have revised the theme names to enhance their clarity and understandability.

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 17, line 346; On page 21, line 436; On page 32, lines 661-665.)

Editing Comments

-Pg. 2 line 67-68 I believe there is a word missing from the sentence.

Response: I am very sorry for the grammatical oversight. We have now corrected and completed the sentence: “mHealth researchers should consider the learnability of the mHealth apps they develop, to ensure accessibility and usability for a diverse user base.”

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 3, the last bullet point.)

-Line 183 “selection” probably should say “select”

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 8, line 135)

Response: I am very sorry for the grammatical oversight. We have now corrected and completed the sentence.

-I suggest using an alternative phrase for “EATING the learning curve” on line 353. Perhaps it was meant to say “easing”.

Response: I am very sorry for the grammatical oversight. We have now corrected and completed the sentence.

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 14, line 273)

-Line 443: There may be a missing word in this sentence or an extraneous one. Also, avoid ending the sentence in a preposition. “This would allow them to review their interest health records on computers and laptops in a format they are comfortable with.”

Response: Thank you for the detailed comment. We have now corrected and completed the sentence. “This feature would enable visually impaired users to access and review their records on computers and laptops in a format that is familiar and comfortable for them.”

(Please kindly review the submitted docx file “R1_mHealth_manuscript_track changed.docx: On page 18, line 350-351)

Reviewer B

1. Please provide a link of Ref 10 in the bibliography.

Response: The revised reference number for “Ref10” is now 12. And I have revised this citation information: Noel K, Ellison B. Inclusive innovation in telehealth. NPJ Digit Med. 2020;3:89. Published 2020 Jun 25. doi:10.1038/s41746-020-0296-5

[Editorial Office: Please provide a link for the current Ref 10.](#)

[doi:10.1017/CBO9780511763151](https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511763151)

2. Please provide the name and registration number of the IRB.

Response: Yes, the IRB information has been included in the Methods section.

3. Please unify the word, UI/UX or UX/UI in the entire article including tables.

Response: Yes, the manuscript employs the term “UI/UX.”