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Peer-Review Report

# Peer Review of “Use of Smartphone Apps for Improving Physical Function Capacity in Cardiac Patient Rehabilitation: Systematic Review”

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Karla Goessler, PhD

Faculty of Medicine, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

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## Related Articles:

Preprint: <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/21906>

Authors' Response to Peer-Review Reports: <https://med.jmirx.org/2021/3/e33179/>

Published Article: <https://med.jmirx.org/2021/3/e21906/>

(*JMIRx Med* 2021;2(3):e33181) doi: [10.2196/33181](https://doi.org/10.2196/33181)

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## KEYWORDS

cardiac rehabilitation; physical capacity; exercise; smartphone apps

*This is a peer-review report submitted for the paper “Use of Smartphone Apps for Improving Physical Function Capacity in Cardiac Patient Rehabilitation: Systematic Review”.*

## Review Round 1

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### General Comments

This is a systematic review [1] investigating the utilization of smartphone apps for improving physical function capacity in cardiac rehabilitation (CR). Please find below my comments/suggestions.

### Specific Comments

#### Major Comments

1. CR interventions seem to be quite different between studies, making future comparisons inappropriate (ie, for CR programs

including exercise programs, I would expect improvements in cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF), while for programs including diet, this outcome might not change).

2. It is not clear how authors selected the papers. This process makes it difficult to understand the results, as the outcomes and types of interventions are quite different between studies. As the main outcome in CR is CRF, I would suggest making it your primary outcome for selection of the studies.

#### Minor Comments

##### Methods/Results

1. I would suggest including a PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) flow diagram for the study selection process. This is available at <http://prisma-statement.org/prismastatement/flowdiagram.aspx>.

2. Tables 2 and 3 are not clear.

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## Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

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## Reference

1. Tuttle K, Kelemen A, Liang Y. Use of smartphone apps for improving physical function capacity in cardiac patient rehabilitation: systematic review. *JMIRx Med* 2021 Sep 15;2(3):e21906 [FREE Full text] [doi: [10.2196/21906](https://doi.org/10.2196/21906)]
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## Abbreviations

**CR:** cardiac rehabilitation

**CRF:** cardiorespiratory fitness

**PRISMA:** Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

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