

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (Review)

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[Intervention Review]

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus

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ABSTRACT

Background

Diabetes is one of the commonest chronic medical conditions, affecting around 347 million adults worldwide. Structured patient education programmes reduce the risk of diabetes-related complications four-fold. Internet-based self-management programmes have been shown to be effective for a number of long-term conditions, but it is unclear what are the essential or effective components of such programmes. If computer-based self-management interventions improve outcomes in type 2 diabetes, they could potentially provide a cost-effective option for reducing the burdens placed on patients and healthcare systems by this long-term condition.

Objectives

To assess the effects on health status and health-related quality of life of computer-based diabetes self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Search methods

We searched six electronic bibliographic databases for published articles and conference proceedings and three online databases for theses (all up to November 2011). Reference lists of relevant reports and reviews were also screened.

Selection criteria

Randomised controlled trials of computer-based self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes, i.e. computer-based software applications that respond to user input and aim to generate tailored content to improve one or more self-management domains through feedback, tailored advice, reinforcement and rewards, patient decision support, goal setting or reminders.

Data collection and analysis

Two review authors independently screened the abstracts and extracted data. A taxonomy for behaviour change techniques was used to describe the active ingredients of the intervention.

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (Review)

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Main results

We identified 16 randomised controlled trials with 3578 participants that fitted our inclusion criteria. These studies included a wide spectrum of interventions covering clinic-based brief interventions, Internet-based interventions that could be used from home and mobile phone-based interventions. The mean age of participants was between 46 to 67 years old and mean time since diagnosis was 6 to 13 years. The duration of the interventions varied between 1 to 12 months. There were three reported deaths out of 3578 participants.

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions currently have limited effectiveness. They appear to have small benefits on glycaemic control (pooled effect on glycosylated haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c): -2.3 mmol/mol or -0.2% (95% confidence interval (CI) -0.4 to -0.1; $P = 0.009$; 2637 participants; 11 trials). The effect size on HbA1c was larger in the mobile phone subgroup (subgroup analysis: mean difference in HbA1c -5.5 mmol/mol or -0.5% (95% CI -0.7 to -0.3); $P < 0.00001$; 280 participants; three trials). Current interventions do not show adequate evidence for improving depression, health-related quality of life or weight. Four (out of 10) interventions showed beneficial effects on lipid profile.

One participant withdrew because of anxiety but there were no other documented adverse effects. Two studies provided limited cost-effectiveness data - with one study suggesting costs per patient of less than \$140 (in 1997) or 105 EURO and another study showed no change in health behaviour and resource utilisation.

Authors' conclusions

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions to manage type 2 diabetes appear to have a small beneficial effect on blood glucose control and the effect was larger in the mobile phone subgroup. There is no evidence to show benefits in other biological outcomes or any cognitive, behavioural or emotional outcomes.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Using computers to self-manage type 2 diabetes

Diabetes is one of the commonest long-term medical conditions, affecting around 347 million adults worldwide. Around 90% of them have type 2 diabetes and are at significant risk of developing diabetes related complications such as strokes or heart attacks. Patient education programmes can reduce the risk of diabetes-related complications, but many people with type 2 diabetes have never attended structured education programmes to learn how to look after themselves (self-management). Better use of computers might be one way of helping more people learn about self-management.

We identified 16 trials involving 3578 adults that met our criteria. These studies included different types of interventions used in different places like touch screen computers in hospital clinics, computers connected to the Internet at home and programmes that communicated with mobile phones. The average age of people taking part was between 46 to 67 years old and most of those people had lived with diabetes for 6 to 13 years. Participants were given access to the interventions for 1 to 12 months, depending on the intervention. Three out of the 3578 participants died but these deaths did not appear to be linked to the trials.

Overall, there is evidence that computer programmes have a small beneficial effect on blood sugar control - the estimated improvement in glycosylated haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c - a long-term measurement of metabolic control) was 2.3 mmol/mol or 0.2%. This was slightly higher when we looked at studies that used mobile phones to deliver their intervention - the estimated improvement in HbA1c was 5.5 mmol/mol or 0.5% in the studies that used mobile phones. Some of the programmes lowered cholesterol slightly. None of the programmes helped with weight loss or coping with depression.

One participant withdrew because of anxiety but there were no obvious side effects and hypoglycaemic episodes were not reported in any of the studies. There was very little information about costs or value for money.

In summary, existing computer programmes to help adults self-manage type 2 diabetes appear to have a small positive effect on blood sugar control and the mobile phone interventions appeared to have larger effects. There is no evidence to show that current programmes can help with weight loss, depression or improving health-related quality of life but they do appear to be safe.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE MAIN COMPARISON *[Explanation]*

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus

Patient or population: participants with type 2 diabetes mellitus

Interventions settings: clinic-based (touch screen or other clinic computer), home computer-based and mobile phone-based interventions

Intervention: computer-based software applications that respond to user input and aim to generate tailored content to improve one or more of the cognitive, behaviour and skills and emotional self-management domains through feedback, tailored advice, reinforcement and rewards, patient decision support, goal setting or reminders

Comparison: standard diabetes care, non-interactive computer-based programmes, paper educational material, delayed start/waiting list, face-to-face diabetes self-management education

Outcomes	Relative effect (95% CI)	No of participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
Health-related quality of life [follow-up: 2 to 18 months]	See comment	2113 (5)	⊕⊕⊕○ moderate^a	No study showed statistically significant differences between intervention and control groups
Death from any cause [follow-up: 2 to 18 months]	See comment	3578 (16)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	A total of three deaths in the 16 studies. Two participants died in one study (Lorig 2010) and one participant died in another study from complications of a cerebrovascular attack (Leu 2005). No further details were provided in the study reports.
Depression [follow-up: 2 to 18 months]	See comment	2273 (6)	⊕⊕⊕○ moderate^b	No study showed statistically significant differences in depression scores or incidence of depression between intervention and control groups
Adverse effects [follow-up: 2 to 12 months]	See comment	3578 (16)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	One study reported a participant withdrawing due to anxiety related to the study
HbA1c [%] [follow-up: 1. 2 to 12 months 2. 3 to 12 months]	1. -0.2 (-0.4 to -0.1) 2. -0.5 (-0.7 to -0.3)	1. 2673 (11) 2. 280 (3)	1. ⊕⊕⊕○ moderate^c 2. ⊕⊕○○ low^d	1. Computer-based interventions resulted in a 0.2% greater HbA1c reduction than control groups (difference in change and

				final values) 2. Subgroup mobile phone interventions resulted in a 0.5% greater HbA1c reduction than control groups (difference in final values)
Economic data [follow-up: 18 months]	See comment	761 (1)	⊕⊕○○ low^e	One study looked at health behaviour and resource utilisation but found no significant differences between intervention or control groups

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

^aSerious risk of bias

^bSerious risk of bias

^cInconsistency, indirectness

^dSubgroup analysis, low number of participants, indirectness

^eOne study only, serious risk of bias

BACKGROUND

The burden of diabetes is growing with 347 million people currently affected worldwide (Danaei 2011) and numbers projected to increase to 552 million by 2030 (International Diabetes Federation 2011). In the UK, the cost to the National health Service (NHS) related to diabetes in 2002 was estimated to be around “£1.3 billion a year, with most of this cost arising from the long-term complications resulting from diabetes not being managed properly” (Wanless 2002), while the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) suggests that in the developed world the cost of caring for patients with diabetes is double that of the background population. Complications of diabetes range from an increased risk of heart attacks, strokes and amputations to blindness and kidney damage: a 60-year old male newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes (without pre-existing cardiovascular disease) can expect to lose 8 to 10 years of life if his diabetes is poorly controlled (National Collaborating Centre 2008). The need for cost-effective improve-

ments in managing diabetes is evidently important.

Improving blood sugar control in patients with diabetes can reduce the risk of death and microvascular complications (DCCT 1993; UKPDS 1998); however, achieving significant reductions in blood glucose levels can be difficult in practice (Peters 1996; Saaddine 2002). Cardiovascular risk factors such as raised blood pressure and lipids are also important and targeting these individually or together can be effective in reducing mortality (Gaede 2003). There is a growing body of evidence that supports the notion that improving self-care improves the biological complications of diabetes, as well as cognitive and emotional outcomes (Campbell 2003).

Diabetes and self-management

Corbin and Strauss (Corbin 1988) described three distinct elements of coping with a chronic illness.

1. Medical and behavioural management: e.g. taking medication, attending follow-up.
 2. Role management: e.g. taking on the 'patient' role, the effect on relationships.
 3. Emotional management: dealing with the fear, anger, guilt etc. that often accompany living with a chronic illness.
- Lorig and Holman used the work of Corbin and Strauss as a basis to describe six skills required for self-management (Lorig 2003): 1) problem solving, 2) decision making, 3) resource utilisation, 4) the formation of a patient-provider partnership, 5) action planning and behaviour change, and 6) patients tailoring management plans to suit their needs.

These skills describe the medical, behavioural and role-management elements of self-management, but the ability to cope with the emotional burden associated with the illness is also needed. Diabetes self-management education (DSME) is a formal term used to describe the ongoing process of facilitating the knowledge, skill and abilities necessary for diabetes self-care (Funnell 2009), and new technology has the potential to improve patient outcomes by helping patients improve their abilities in all of these domains.

The evidence for diabetes self-management education

A number of existing evidence-based programmes to improve self-care are already widely used and examples of these diabetes self-management education programmes include: the diabetes education and self-management for ongoing and newly diagnosed (DESMOND) programme for people with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes (Davies 2008), the 'Rethink Organization to iMprove Education and Outcomes' (ROMEO) for people with type 2 diabetes (Trento 2010), the 'Diabetes X-PERT Programme' (Deakin 2006) for people with type 2 diabetes and the dose adjustment for normal eating (DAFNE) for people with type 1 diabetes (DAFNE 2002). Examples of general patient self-management programmes include the chronic disease self-management programme (CDSMP) (Lorig 2001) and the expert patient programme (EPP) (Department of Health 2001; Kennedy 2007). Group-based training for self-management in people with type 2 diabetes appears to improve diabetes control (glycated haemoglobin reduced by 1.4% at six months) and knowledge of diabetes in the short- and longer-term with weaker evidence to show effects on blood pressure, weight and health-related quality of life (Deakin 2005). In contrast, there does not currently appear to be much evidence to show that individual patient education significantly improves glycaemic control, body mass index or blood pressure (Duke 2009).

The potential for new technology

New technology offers some exciting new opportunities to expand on the success above and counter some of the difficulties (Griffiths 2006; Tate 2004). Desktop, laptop or handheld computers and mobile phones have the processing power and connectivity to allow remote access to information and algorithms that may be able to target most of the components of existing face-to-face DSME programmes. They also have the potential to be relatively cheap, easily distributable, delivered at multiple locations (clinical, community-based, at home or on the move) at times convenient for patients, offer patients as many interventions as they need or want and offer continuing support, send out automatic reminders and present information in an attractive, tailored format to suit patients' needs. Connectivity mentioned above also allows easy formation of social networking and peer support groups beyond traditional clinical settings. Diabetes self-management interventions often show evidence of short-term benefits that may fade over time (Minet 2010). Computer-based interventions have the potential to provide ongoing self-management support to re-enforce the benefits over time.

Description of the condition

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder resulting from a defect in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both. A consequence of this is chronic hyperglycaemia (that is elevated levels of plasma glucose) with disturbances of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism. Long-term complications of diabetes mellitus include retinopathy, nephropathy and neuropathy. The risk of cardiovascular disease is increased. For a detailed overview of diabetes mellitus, please see under 'Additional information' in the information on the Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders Group in *The Cochrane Library* (see 'About', 'Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs)'). For an explanation of methodological terms, see the main glossary in *The Cochrane Library*.

Description of the intervention

The term computer-based diabetes self-management intervention includes any application that takes input from a patient and uses communication or processing technology to provide a tailored response that facilitates one or more aspect of diabetes self-management, i.e. technology that promotes 1) problem solving, 2) decision making, 3) resource utilisation, 4) the formation of a patient-provider partnership, 5) action planning, emotional management or behaviour change or 6) self-tailoring, without needing continuous professional input.

Adverse effects of the intervention

Although difficulties with the uptake and reach of such interventions have been documented in the literature (Glasgow 2010a),

there is currently no good evidence documenting adverse effects of these interventions. Possible adverse effects could include the following.

- Patients receiving incorrect advice or misinterpreting self-management guidance.
- Patients making decisions that clinicians would deem 'inappropriate'.
- Frustration at absence of services the intervention suggests would be useful.
- Sense of failure, loss of self-esteem or self-worth amongst patients who stop using it or do not find it helpful.
- Exclusion arising from digital divide or inability to use technology.
- Risk of health service system only providing e-health intervention, leaving those unable to use such interventions unserved. Breakdown or strain on existing doctor-patient relationships if there is a difference in advice from the intervention and healthcare providers.
- Clinician information overload from data generated by self-management recording.
- Increased use and strain on health services from more engaged patients.

How the intervention might work

Computer-based interventions to improve diabetes self-care are complex interventions (Medical Research Council 2008), and they can be judged on their ability to improve biological, cognitive, behavioural and emotional outcomes. For this to happen, interventions need to help patients improve their knowledge and understanding of diabetes and change their patterns of eating, physical activity and adherence to treatment regimens. The theory behind the educational component of interventions can be based on principles of adult learning and education (Collins 2004) although the theoretical basis of diabetes educational interventions is often poorly described (Brown 1999). Knowledge and understanding are thought to be important cognitions that can influence health behaviour and they are components of some of the theories mentioned below.

There are currently a number of different theories that are used to model health behaviour which often overlap and may use different terms to describe similar concepts (Noar 2005). Some of the most commonly cited models for health behaviour focus on cognitive constructs such as attitudes, beliefs and expectations (related to outcomes, self-belief or what other people might think) and examples of such models include the 'Health Belief Model' (Rosenstock 1966), 'Theory of Reasoned Action and Planned Behaviour' (Ajzen 2001), 'Social Cognitive Theory' (Bandura 1986) and 'Protection Motivation Theory' (Rogers 1975). Using these theories as a basis for designing self-management programmes has a number of challenges: 1) the theories focus on *predicting* behaviour and were not primarily created as theories for enabling

behaviour change; 2) they only *partially* explain the observed variance seen in behavioural outcomes; 3) they are heavily focused on motivated or intentional behaviour while the behaviours that need to be changed to improve health are often automatic, habitual patterns of behaviour; and 4) they do not model multiple behaviour change (Munro 2007).

An intervention based on theory is more likely to be effective than one not based on theory (Noar 2008), and also has the advantages of a generalisable framework, the possibility of understanding why the interventions might work, and facilitating the accumulation of knowledge (Michie 2008). However, there is no clear consensus on how to choose one or more theories of health behaviour in order to create an intervention. One approach is to assess the behaviours that need to be changed in terms of theoretical domains explaining why current behaviours exist. Using a mapping framework (Michie 2008), these domains can then be used to select appropriate behaviour change techniques (examples shown in Table 1). The use of integrative theoretical domains allows a comprehensive theoretical assessment rather than starting by applying only one or two theories and potentially missing important explanations. Part of the aim of this review is to describe the interventions in terms of behaviour change techniques and theories (as well as mode of delivery or technology used) thereby allowing a theory-based rationale for grouping or combining intervention components.

Why it is important to do this review

There is evidence that low-intensity brief interventions for simple behaviour change (e.g. smoking cessation) are effective even when delivered by computer-based applications (Portnoy 2008), while higher-intensity face-to-face interventions (group or one-to-one) set the current standard for self-management training. The fundamental question is whether there is a cost-effective niche for computer-based 'intermediate' interventions (i.e. interventions that are more costly and time consuming than the brief intervention model but cheaper to implement than face-to-face contact) for the more complex (multiple) behaviour change required in chronic disease self-management, in this particular case, type 2 diabetes mellitus. There are some important questions about computer-based interventions for diabetes self-management that need answering and have not been fully answered by previous reviews in the area as there has been insufficient evidence in the past.

1. Unknown efficacy - do they really work?
2. Uncertainty about active components - how do they work?
3. What is the clinical significance of any reported benefits of these interventions?
4. Are they cost effective?
5. What harm can come from computer-based interventions?
6. Which populations and sub-populations do they benefit?

OBJECTIVES

To assess the effects on health status and health-related quality of life of computer-based diabetes self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

METHODS

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Types of studies

Randomised controlled clinical trials.

Types of participants

Adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Adult patients were defined as patients aged 18 and over.

Diagnostic criteria

To be consistent with changes in classification and diagnostic criteria of diabetes mellitus through the years, the diagnosis should have been established using the standard criteria valid at the time of the beginning of the trial (for example [ADA 1999](#); [ADA 2008](#); [WHO 1998](#)). Ideally, diagnostic criteria should have been described. Where necessary, authors' definition of diabetes mellitus were used.

Types of interventions

Intervention

Computer-based software applications that respond to user input and aim to generate tailored content to improve one or more of the following self-management domains through feedback, tailored advice, reinforcement and rewards, patient decision support, goal setting or reminders.

Cognitive

- Knowledge about the diabetes disease process, complications and treatment options.
- Goal setting to promote health.
- Self-efficacy and confidence in own ability to manage diabetes.

Behaviour and skills

- Incorporating appropriate nutritional management.
- Incorporating physical activity into lifestyle.
- Utilising medications (if applicable) for therapeutic effectiveness.
 - Monitoring blood glucose, urine ketones (when appropriate), and using the results to improve control.
 - Accessing services and preventing, detecting and treating acute complications.
 - Preventing (through risk reduction behaviour), detecting, and treating chronic complications.

Emotional

- Integrating psychosocial adjustment to daily life.
- Managing anxiety, depression and stress.
- Providing social support for patients.

Control

- Standard diabetes care.
- Non-interactive computer-based programme.
- Paper educational material.
- Delayed start/waiting list.
- Face-to-face diabetes self-management education.

There is no equivalent of a placebo-controlled trial as all of the controls have patients with a chronic illness who will have ongoing clinical input that could have an effect on the target population. Some would argue that any effect of standard care is desirable as it counteracts the effect of the selection bias inherent in choosing volunteers for trials who are more likely to be motivated and concerned about their health and it provides a more realistic estimate of any advantage of the treatment over existing clinical care. However, in the case of behavioural interventions, 'standard care' may involve a number of the behavioural techniques that are being tested and their presence in the control group could make the results difficult to interpret. We have therefore tried to analyse any 'standard care' provided to comparison groups and implicit intervention or technique that might be part of the comparison group ([de Bruin 2009](#)).

Setting

There were no restrictions based on setting or technology used to deliver the intervention.

Exclusions

- Any program, website or application.
- Targeted only at patients with type 1 diabetes
 - Involving participants aged under the age of 18 (including studies on mixed populations of adults and children)

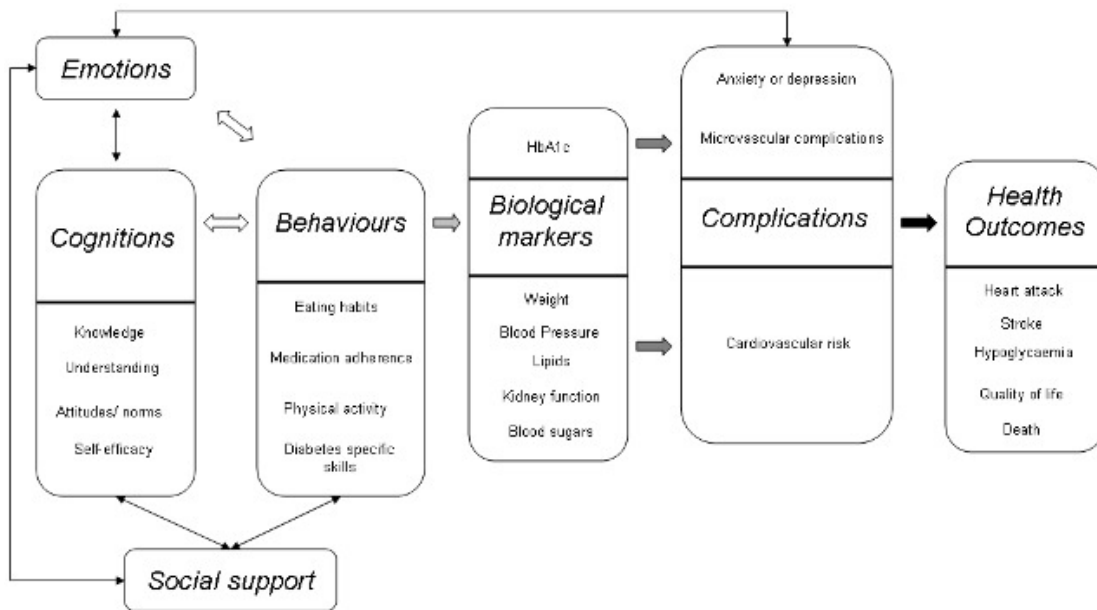
- Used *only* for communication between patients and professionals
- Targeted exclusively at health professionals

Studies carried out on mixed populations of patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes were included in the review as long as more than 50% of the patients had type 2 diabetes. Where possible, data for patients with type 2 diabetes were extracted and the data for patients with type 1 diabetes discarded. When that was not possible, data for the mixed population were used. Four studies included in the review had mixed populations (Leu 2005; Lo 1996; Smith 2000; Wise 1986). One of these studies (Leu 2005) provided sufficient data to include it in the meta-analysis. A subgroup analysis was undertaken to examine the impact of removing studies on mixed populations.

Types of outcome measures

Integrating all the factors contributing to diabetes self-management into a unified model to describe how they might affect outcomes is challenging. A deliberately simplified schematic that could aid this process is shown in Figure 1. As many of the health outcomes take many years to develop, it is not practical to use them as primary outcome measures for this review as follow-up in the studies would not be long enough to demonstrate differences in these. However, more proximal variables such as glycosylated haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c, representing an average measure of blood sugars), body mass index (BMI), depression or anxiety may show changes over suitable time scales.

Figure 1. A model to demonstrate how self-management interventions might affect outcomes in type 2 diabetes



Primary outcomes

- Health-related quality of life
- Death from any cause
- HbA1c

Cognitions

- Change in knowledge and understanding
- Self-efficacy

Secondary outcomes

Behaviours

- Physical activity

Social support

- Change in social support

Biological markers

- Cardiovascular risk factors, which include blood pressure, BMI and lipids

Complications

- Hospital admissions or emergency unit attendances
- Anxiety or depression

Other outcomes

- Hypoglycaemia
- Adverse effects
- Cost-effectiveness and economic data

Covariates, effect modifiers and confounders

- Age
- Gender
- Computer literacy
- Attrition

Timing of outcome measurement

At the end of the intervention and for as long as follow-up was carried out. We defined short-term follow-up as that measured within 30 days of the end of the intervention period to measure the immediate effects of the intervention; medium-term follow-up as between one to six months after the intervention to see if the effects continue; long-term follow-up data as six months and later from the end of the intervention to see how effects change over time. For the overall meta-analysis the data at the longest follow-up date available were used.

Search methods for identification of studies

Electronic searches

We used the following sources for the identification of trials.

- *The Cochrane Library* (2011, issue 10).
- MEDLINE (from inception until week 1 November 2011).
- EMBASE (from inception until 14/11/2011).
- PsycINFO (from inception until week 2 November 2011) (for studies and dissertation abstracts).
- Web of Science (from inception until 14/11/2011) (for studies and conference proceedings).
- CINAHL (from inception until 17/11/2011).

For detailed search strategies please see under Appendix 1.

Studies published in any language were included and the final included studies were published in English (15) and Chinese (1).

Searching other resources

We screened reference lists from relevant published studies and contacted authors for further information when required.

We used the following resources to search for unpublished literature.

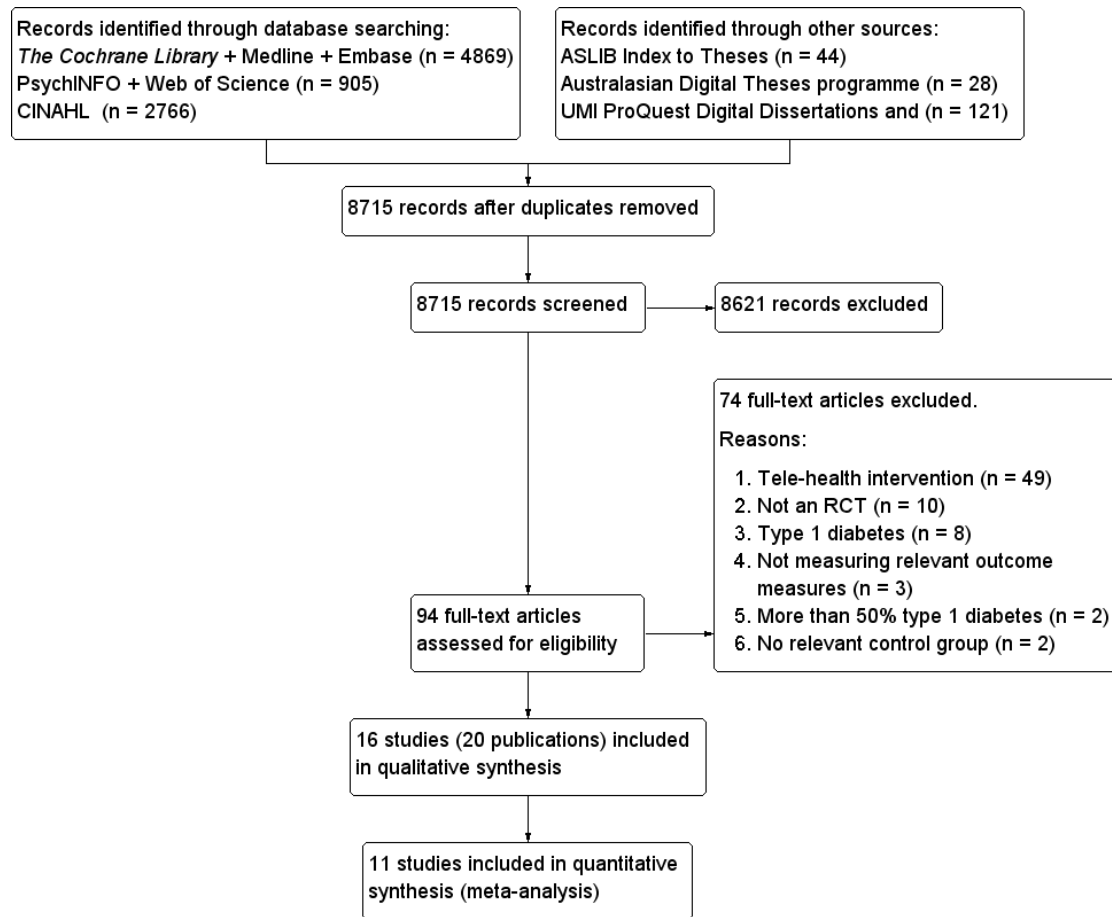
- ASLIB Index to Theses.
- Australasian Digital Theses programme.
- UMI ProQuest Digital Dissertations and Theses.

Data collection and analysis

Selection of studies

To determine the studies to be assessed further, two review authors (KP, SE) independently scanned the abstract, title or both sections of every record retrieved. All potentially relevant articles were investigated as full text. Where differences in opinion existed, they were resolved by a third party (EM) and the rationale justified in a steering group meeting. An adapted PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses) flow-chart of study selection ([Figure 2](#)) has been attached ([Liberati 2009](#)).

Figure 2. Study flow diagram.



Data extraction and management

For studies that fulfilled inclusion criteria, two review authors (KP, SE) independently extracted relevant population and intervention characteristics using standard data extraction templates (for details see 'Characteristics of included studies' and Table 2; Appendix 2; Appendix 3; Appendix 4; Appendix 5; Appendix 6; Appendix 7; Appendix 8; Appendix 9; Appendix 10; Appendix 11) with any disagreements resolved by discussion, or if required by a third party (EM). Any relevant missing information on the trial was sought from the original author(s) of the article, when required.

Dealing with duplicate publications

In the case of duplicate publications and companion papers of a primary study, we tried to maximise yield of information by simultaneous evaluation of all available data. In cases of doubt, the original publication (usually the oldest version) obtained priority.

Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

Two review authors (KP, SE) assessed each trial independently. Possible disagreements were resolved by consensus, or with consultation of a third party (E.M.) and discussed in a steering group meeting where the final decision was made.

Risk of bias was assessed using the Cochrane Collaboration's tool (Higgins 2011). The following criteria were used.

- Was the allocation sequence adequately generated?
- Was the allocation adequately concealed?
- Was knowledge of the allocated intervention adequately prevented during the study?
 - Were incomplete outcome data adequately addressed?
 - Are reports of the study free of suggestion of selective outcome reporting?
- Was the study apparently free of other problems that could put it at a high risk of bias?

We judged risk of bias criteria as 'low risk', 'high risk' or 'un-

clear risk' and evaluated individual bias items as described in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* (Higgins 2011). A 'Risk of bias' graph (Figure 3) and 'Risk of bias' summary (Figure 4) are attached.

Figure 3. 'Risk of bias' graph: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item presented as percentages across all included studies.

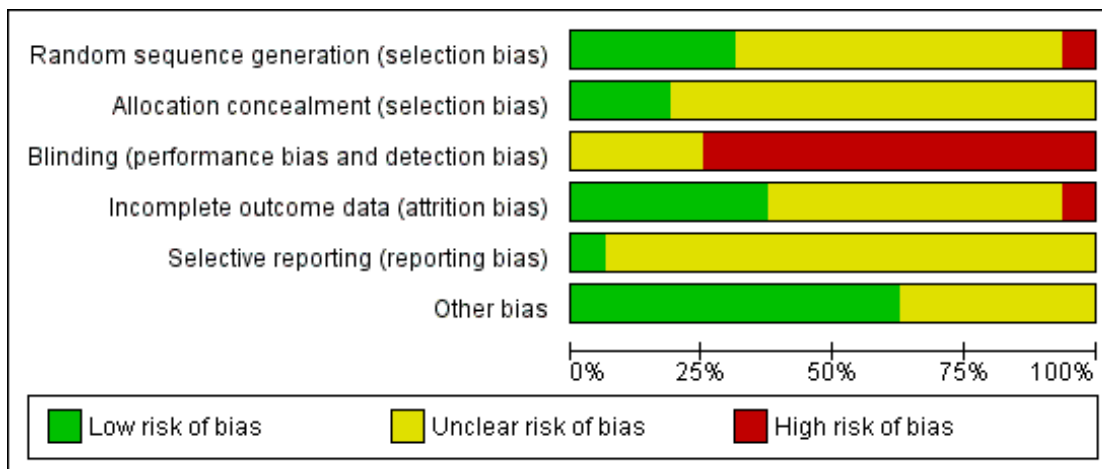


Figure 4. 'Risk of bias' summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each included study.

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Christian 2008	+	+	-	+	?	?
Glasgow 1997	+	?	?	?	?	+
Glasgow 2003	?	?	?	?	?	?
Glasgow 2005	?	+	-	?	?	+
Glasgow 2006	?	?	?	+	?	?
Glasgow 2010	+	?	?	+	?	+
Leu 2005	+	+	-	?	?	+
Lim 2011	?	?	-	+	?	+
Lo 1996	?	?	-	?	?	+
Lorig 2010	+	?	-	+	?	+
Quinn 2008	?	?	-	?	?	?
Quinn 2011	?	?	-	-	+	?
Smith 2000	?	?	-	?	?	?
Wise 1986	-	?	-	?	?	+
Yoo 2009	?	?	-	?	?	+
Zhou 2003	?	?	-	+	?	+

Measures of treatment effect

Self-management interventions are heterogenous in their aims and design. Two common outcomes that we thought would be shared by the majority of studies were HbA1c and health-related quality of life (QoL) measures (both are continuous data). Where studies provided sufficient data, we were able to look at the mean difference or difference in means for HbA1c. We planned to use standardised mean differences for QoL measures that used different scales, however, we were unable to do this due to insufficient data. The effects on QoL measures were therefore described narratively. Given the heterogenous nature of the interventions, we analysed the theoretical basis for the interventions and tried to define in as much detail as possible the active components. We had planned to pool the results where there was evidence that the interventions being grouped shared approaches that draw on a similar theoretical basis, but there were not enough studies to do this.

Unit of analysis issues

We took into account the level at which randomisation occurred, such as cross-over trials, cluster-randomised trials and multiple observations for the same outcome. Two of the included studies were cluster-randomised trials (Glasgow 2005; Quinn 2011). We were unable to find suitable external estimates of intra cluster correlation coefficients and none were reported in the two cluster-randomised controlled trials included in the meta-analysis. These trials were included in the overall meta-analysis but a basic sensitivity analysis was done by repeating the meta-analysis without these studies.

Dealing with missing data

Relevant missing data were requested from trial authors. Evaluation of important numerical data such as numbers of screened, randomised patients as well as intention-to-treat (ITT), as-treated and per-protocol (PP) population were carefully performed. Attrition rates, for example dropouts, losses to follow-up and withdrawals were recorded. Issues of missing data and imputation methods (for example, last observation carried forward (LOCF)) were critically appraised.

Assessment of heterogeneity

Heterogeneity was identified by visual inspection of the forest plots, by using a standard Chi^2 test and a significance level of $\alpha = 0.1$, in view of the low power of this test. Heterogeneity was to be specifically examined with the I^2 statistic quantifying inconsistency across studies to assess the impact of heterogeneity on the meta-analysis (Higgins 2002; Higgins 2003), where an I^2

statistic of 50% to 90% may represent substantial heterogeneity and 30% to 60% may represent moderate heterogeneity (Higgins 2011).

When heterogeneity was found, we attempted to determine potential reasons for it by examining individual study and subgroup characteristics.

Assessment of reporting biases

A funnel plot was planned to assess for the potential existence of small study bias. However, there were too few studies to allow a meaningful assessment and therefore this has not been included in the review.

Data synthesis

Data were summarised statistically where possible when data were available, sufficiently similar and of sufficient quality. Statistical analysis was performed according to the statistical guidelines referenced in version 5.0.2 of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* (Higgins 2011). Where there were insufficient data to permit formal meta-analyses, we did a narrative synthesis.

Applying the taxonomy of behaviour change techniques

Two independent raters (KP and SE) piloted the taxonomy of behaviour change techniques (Michie 2011) on two studies. They underwent two cycles of an iterative process of independent coding, comparing results and discussion of differences and further refinement of the application of the taxonomy descriptions. Once good agreement was reached, KP and SE coded the intervention and control groups of the remaining studies, followed by re-coding of the pilot studies.

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

Where performed, subgroup analysis has been clearly marked as a hypothesis-generating exercise.

The following subgroup analyses were planned.

- Age.
- Gender.
- Behaviour change techniques used (based on proposed model for behaviour change).
- Education techniques used (to determine the most effective components of education).
- Duration of intervention (previous reviews have noted correlations between effect and duration of interventions).
- Duration of diabetes below or over five years (patients who have had diabetes for longer are likely to have more advanced

disease and increased insulin resistance, more complications and are more likely to be on insulin therapy; any treatment modality may have smaller effects in more advanced disease).

- Different settings (primary care, outpatient or community settings) (likely to affect attrition: interventions that are more convenient for patients are likely to be better accepted and used but there may be some attraction for group interactions as well).
- Studies with participants with type 2 diabetes only (type 1 and type 2 diabetes tend to be more prevalent in very different age groups and have differences in aetiology and therefore may not respond the same way to the interventions).

There were sufficient data to perform subgroup analyses on the following.

- Duration of intervention.
- Settings: when looking at different settings, the distinction between primary care, outpatient or community setting could not be meaningfully applied to self-management interventions. It was more meaningful to divide the interventions settings into clinic-based (touch screen or other clinic computer), home computer-based and mobile phone-based interventions.
- Studies with participants with type 2 diabetes only.

It was not possible to gather enough data to undertake the other planned subgroup-analyses.

Sensitivity analysis

We also planned to perform sensitivity analyses in order to explore the influence of the following factors on effect size.

- Restricting the analysis to published studies.
- Restricting the analysis taking into account risk of bias, as specified above.
- Restricting the analysis to very long or large studies to establish how much they dominate the results.
- Restricting the analysis to studies using the following filters: diagnostic criteria, language of publication, source of funding (industry versus other), country.

However, there were not sufficient data to perform these analyses. The robustness of the results was tested by repeating the analysis using different statistical models (fixed-effect model and random-effects model).

RESULTS

Description of studies

See: [Characteristics of included studies](#); [Characteristics of excluded studies](#); [Characteristics of studies awaiting classification](#).

See: [Characteristics of included studies](#); [Characteristics of excluded studies](#)

Results of the search

The search results from the six electronic bibliographic databases for published articles and conference proceedings yielded 8715 unique abstracts (4869 from *The Cochrane Library*, MEDLINE and EMBASE; 905 from PsychINFO and Web of Science and 2766 from CINAHL). The search results from the three online databases for theses contained 193 abstracts (44 from ASLIB Index to Theses, 28 from the Australasian Digital Theses programme and 121 from UMI ProQuest Digital Dissertations). This is summarised in [Figure 2](#). Two authors (KP and SE) independently screened the abstracts. Full papers were pulled for all abstracts that either author felt they could not confidently exclude. Ninety-four full-text articles were assessed for eligibility and assessed independently by two authors. Any papers where there was disagreement between the two authors were discussed in the steering group for elaboration and operationalisation of the eligibility criteria. Sixteen different studies with 3578 participants fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were selected for inclusion in the review.

Included studies

Sixteen studies met the inclusion criteria. A summary of the characteristics of the included studies can be found in the table [Characteristics of included studies](#). Eleven studies were based in the USA ([Christian 2008](#); [Glasgow 1997](#); [Glasgow 2003](#); [Glasgow 2005](#); [Glasgow 2006](#); [Glasgow 2010](#); [Leu 2005](#); [Lorig 2010](#); [Quinn 2008](#); [Quinn 2011](#); [Smith 2000](#)), two studies in the United Kingdom ([Lo 1996](#); [Wise 1986](#)), two studies in South Korea ([Lim 2011](#); [Yoo 2009](#)) and one in China ([Zhou 2003](#)). Fifteen of the studies had reports published in English, one report was translated from Chinese ([Zhou 2003](#)).

Study design

All of the studies included in the review were randomised controlled trials. The duration of follow-up ranged from 2 to 12 months: two studies followed up for two months ([Glasgow 2006](#); [Zhou 2003](#)), three studies followed up for three months ([Lo 1996](#); [Quinn 2008](#); [Yoo 2009](#)), one study followed up for four months ([Glasgow 2010](#)), two studies followed up for five months ([Leu 2005](#); [Smith 2000](#)), three studies followed up for six months ([Lim 2011](#); [Lorig 2010](#); [Wise 1986](#)), one study followed up for 10 months ([Glasgow 2003](#)) and four studies followed up for 12 months ([Christian 2008](#); [Glasgow 1997](#); [Glasgow 2005](#); [Quinn 2011](#)).

Participants

The included studies provided results from 3578 participants. The number of participants in a single study ranged from 30 ([Quinn 2008](#); [Smith 2000](#)) to 886 ([Glasgow 2005](#)). One study only included women ([Smith 2000](#)). In 13 studies all participants had

type 2 diabetes; three studies involved mixed populations with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes (Glasgow 1997; Leu 2005; Smith 2000); the percentage of participants with type 1 diabetes was about 20%. Participants in one study were all Latino or Hispanic (Christian 2008). Three studies reported participants who were over 70% white or non-Hispanic white (Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Lorig 2010), although the last study had a separate arm which exclusively recruited American Indians and native Alaskans. Six studies reported mean duration of diabetes (Glasgow 1997; Lim 2011; Quinn 2008; Quinn 2011; Wise 1986; Yoo 2009) which ranged between 6 and 13 years. The mean age of participants ranged from 46 (Smith 2000) to 67 years (Lim 2011).

Interventions

Duration

The duration of the interventions varied. The shortest interventions were given to participants over four to six weeks (Lo 1996; Lorig 2010); longer durations were as follows: two months (Glasgow 2006; Zhou 2003); three months (Quinn 2008; Yoo 2009); four months (Glasgow 2010); five months (Leu 2005; Smith 2000); six months (Glasgow 1997; Lim 2011; Wise 1986); 10 months (Glasgow 2003); 12 months (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2005; Quinn 2011).

Frequency and Intensity

Patterns of use of the interventions varied widely across the different studies. Seven studies had interventions where exposure to the intervention was participant-driven and the frequency and intensity was mainly determined by how often and how long patients chose to use the intervention (Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2010; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008; Quinn 2011; Smith 2000; Zhou 2003). The remaining interventions were more prescriptive: six interventions were low intensity and the number of exposures to the intervention varied between one and four "doses". Two interventions used one interaction (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2005), two interventions used two interactions (Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2006), one intervention used three interactions (Wise 1986) and one intervention used four interactions (Lo 1996). Three interventions were relatively intensive and had, on average, more than two interactions a day with participants (Leu 2005; Lim 2011; Zhou 2003).

Types of intervention

Six interventions were clinic-based. One intervention was a brief touch screen assessment of dietary barriers (Glasgow 1997); one intervention was a 30-minute touch screen assessment and print-out for action planning for self-management (Glasgow 2005); two interventions were computer-based assessments that also provided printouts for barriers to physical activity and diet (Christian 2008;

Glasgow 2006); and two interventions provided computer-based education sessions (Lo 1996; Wise 1986).

Five interventions were Internet-based and were used from home. Four interventions provided peer support and education online, mostly through moderated forums (Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2010; Lorig 2010; Smith 2000). One intervention used a computer to provide a tailored dietary plan for participants (Zhou 2003). Five interventions used mobile devices. One study used pagers (Leu 2005) and four studies used mobile phones (Lim 2011; Quinn 2008; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009). The pager study (Leu 2005) sent reminders about medication, blood glucose testing, exercise reinforcement, meal time reinforcement, laboratory results and custom participant-defined messages to participants and they were able to respond to messages. One of the mobile phone-based interventions (Yoo 2009) provided alarms for twice daily blood pressure and blood glucose measurements and daily weight measurement; it also provided texts with advice about lifestyle, exercise and tailored advice from health professionals. Another mobile phone-based intervention (Quinn 2008) used a blue tooth adapter to allow blood glucose data to be transferred to a mobile phone and use mobile phone-based software to generate personalised feedback. Lim et al (Lim 2011) described an intervention that sent text messages to participants based on self-monitored blood glucose levels with advice about medication or lifestyle. Quinn et al (Quinn 2011) used a mobile phone-based software coach that delivered mostly automated messages in response to participant entered self-monitoring data.

The comparison group for five studies was usual care (Leu 2005; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011; Wise 1986; Yoo 2009). Two studies provided printed information to participants (Christian 2008; Smith 2000). Two studies used touch screens for assessment or data collection but provided no feedback to participants (Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2005). The remaining studies all used different controls; two studies provided face-to-face diabetes education in the control arm (Lim 2011; Lo 1996), one study provided blood glucose meters and encouraged participants to fax their results to their healthcare providers every two weeks until blood glucose was stabilised (Quinn 2008), one study provided fixed carbohydrate content meals decided by the doctor (Zhou 2003), one study provide computer-based access to articles about diabetes (Glasgow 2003) and two studies provided computer-assisted generic health risk appraisal (Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010).

Outcomes

A comprehensive description of the outcome measures outlined in the study reports is provided in Appendix 6.

Primary outcomes

Health-related quality of life

Five studies reported on health-related quality of life (Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011; Smith 2000). They used four different scales - Problem Areas In Diabetes (PAID)-2 (Glasgow 2005), Diabetes distress scale (Glasgow 2006; Quinn 2011), Health distress scale (Lorig 2010) and Psychosocial adjustment to illness scale (PAIS) (Smith 2000).

Death from any cause

Two studies reported on the number of deaths of participants. One study reported one fatal event in the intervention arm (Leu 2005) and the other study reported the deaths of two participants (Lorig 2010, details of deaths not reported).

Glycosylated haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c)

All 16 studies mentioned glycosylated haemoglobin as an outcome measure. Eleven reports contained enough data to be included in a meta-analysis of 2637 participants (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Leu 2005; Lim 2011; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003). Of the remaining studies, one reported a non-standardised measure of glycosylated haemoglobin (Lo 1996) and one study described self-reported HbA1c data (Smith 2000). The remaining reports did not contain enough data to be included in the meta-analysis (Glasgow 1997; Quinn 2008; Wise 1986).

Secondary outcomes

Cognitions

Change in knowledge and understanding: four studies reported on changes in knowledge (Lo 1996; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008; Wise 1986), but there were insufficient data to combine in a meta-analysis.

Self-efficacy: two studies reported changes in self-efficacy (Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008).

Behaviours

Physical activity: five studies reported changes in physical activity (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2010; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008). Two studies measured changes in physical activity in minutes (Glasgow 2003; Lorig 2010), one study measured metabolic equivalent minutes (MET-min) per week (Christian 2008), one study looked at the mean number of days of exercise

in a one week period (Quinn 2008) and one study recorded calories burned per week as determined by the 'Community Healthy Activities Model Program for Seniors' (CHAMPS) questionnaire (Glasgow 2010).

Diet: six studies looked at changes in eating behaviours (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2010; Quinn 2008). One study looked at reported calorie intake per week (Christian 2008). Two studies looked at the Kristal Fat and Fiber behaviour scale and fat intake (Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2003). One study looked at fruit and vegetable screener scores and daily fat intake (Glasgow 2006), one study looked at number of days per week of diabetes self-care for diet (Quinn 2008) and one study used the 'Starting the conversation' scale to measure healthy eating patterns (Glasgow 2010).

Social support

Change in social support: one study measured change in social support using the diabetes support scale (Glasgow 2003) and one study measured social support using the Personal Resource Questionnaire (PRS) (Smith 2000)

Biological markers

Blood pressure: five studies looked at changes in blood pressure (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2010; Leu 2005; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009). Two studies reported differences in mean systolic and diastolic blood pressures (Christian 2008; Quinn 2011), one study reported percentages of the groups that were hypertensive (Leu 2005), one study reported mean systolic and diastolic blood pressures (Yoo 2009) and one study reported mean arterial pressure (Glasgow 2010).

Blood lipid levels: ten studies reported blood lipid results (Christian 2008; Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Lim 2011; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003). Seven studies described total cholesterol, HDL and LDL levels (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Lim 2011; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003). Two studies reported total cholesterol: HDL ratios (Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2010). One study reported total cholesterol only (Glasgow 1997). Five studies reported triglyceride levels (Christian 2008; Lim 2011; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003).

Body mass index (BMI)/weight: five studies reported changes in BMI (Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2010; Lim 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003). Four studies reported changes in weight (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2006; Lim 2011; Yoo 2009).

Complications

Hospital admissions or emergency unit attendances: not reported in any of the studies.

Emotional outcomes

Anxiety or depression: six studies reported changes in depression. One study used the Centre for Epidemiologic depression scale (Glasgow 2003), two studies used PHQ-9 questionnaire scores (Glasgow 2006; Quinn 2011), one study reported changes in PHQ-9 score (Lorig 2010) and one study reported percentage of people in the groups with a PHQ-9 score of 10 or higher (Glasgow 2005). The final study looked at new diagnosis of depression in the intervention group (Quinn 2008).

Other outcomes

Episodes of hypoglycaemia: not reported in any of the studies. One study described the frequency of episodes as “infrequent” (Quinn 2011).

Adverse effects: one study reported a participant withdrawing due to anxiety related to the study (Wise 1986).

Cost-effectiveness and economic data: one study reported cost-effectiveness data (Glasgow 1997) with costs per patients and costs per 1% reduction in fat intake and costs per unit reduction in cholesterol. One study reported changes in physician visits (Lorig 2010).

Excluded studies

Studies excluded from the review are described in [Characteristics of excluded studies](#). The majority of studies excluded were tele-health interventions (44). They were excluded on the basis that the interventions did not fit our criteria for self-management interventions, rather they were tele-health interventions with the main aim of enabling health professional - patient interaction at a distance. Other reasons for exclusion included studies on participants with type 1 diabetes only (2), studies with more than 50% type 1 diabetes (2) and studies that were not randomised controlled trials (4). Of note, data in [Figure 2](#) relate to exclusion of full-text articles.

Risk of bias in included studies

Details of the risk of bias of the included studies can be found in [Characteristics of included studies](#) and this has been summarised in [Figure 3](#) and [Figure 4](#). All of the included studies were randomised controlled trials but none were blinded. One study used an inadequate method of randomisation and was at high risk of bias (Wise 1986). The risk of bias in the remaining studies was unclear for some aspects as there was not sufficient detail in the report to make an assessment.

Allocation

Two studies used a random number table to generate the randomised sequences (Glasgow 1997; Lorig 2010). Two studies used a computer-generated random number sequence (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2010). One study used an Excel (TM) spreadsheet to randomly allocate participants (Leu 2005). One older study used inadequate randomisation by year and month of birth (Wise 1986). Reports for the remaining studies did not describe the method of generating the random number sequences.

Allocation concealment was done using padded envelopes in two studies (Christian 2008; Leu 2005) and these were assigned a low risk of selection bias.

Blinding

The study design for 11 of the included studies would make it difficult to blind the participants (Christian 2008; Leu 2005; Lim 2011; Lo 1996; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008; Quinn 2011; Smith 2000; Wise 1986; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003). The remaining studies did not comment on blinding of participants.

There was no comment on assessor blinding for 15 studies. One study used self-reported data collection; however patients were not blinded so the potential for performance and detection bias remained (Lorig 2010).

Incomplete outcome data

Four studies performed intention-to-treat analysis on the results (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Lorig 2010). One study used weighted estimating equations to address missing data (Quinn 2011); however, as the attrition rates were high in the intervention group (39%) and differed significantly from the control group (10%), we felt the results were at high risk of attrition bias. One study had no missing data (Zhou 2003). Four studies described their attrition rates which were between 4% to 16% (Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2006; Lim 2011; Yoo 2009). The remaining studies did not provide details about missing data.

Selective reporting

We were able to find a published protocol for only one of the included studies (Quinn 2011). We found no evidence of selective reporting of outcomes.

Other potential sources of bias

One study noted a larger reduction in HbA1c for patients in the control arm who had their antihyperglycaemic drugs increased compared with the intervention group (Christian 2008). The control group for one study received a potentially active intervention that contained automated dietary change goals (Glasgow 2003).

Effects of interventions

See: [Summary of findings for the main comparison](#)

Primary Outcomes

Health-related quality of life

Five studies reported health-related quality of life scores (Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011; Smith 2000) but none showed statistically significant differences. In one study, both the control and the intervention group showed improvement on the PAID-2 scale (Glasgow 2005) but there was no significant difference between the two groups at 12 months. The study Lorig 2010 using the health distress scale showed no change between intervention and control groups at six months. Another study used PAIS (Smith 2000) and found no difference between intervention or control groups after five months. The final two studies using the diabetes distress scale (Glasgow 2006; Quinn 2011) showed no difference between control and intervention groups at two months and 12 months respectively.

Death from any cause

A total of three deaths out of 3578 participants were reported in the 16 studies. Two participants died in one study (Lorig 2010)

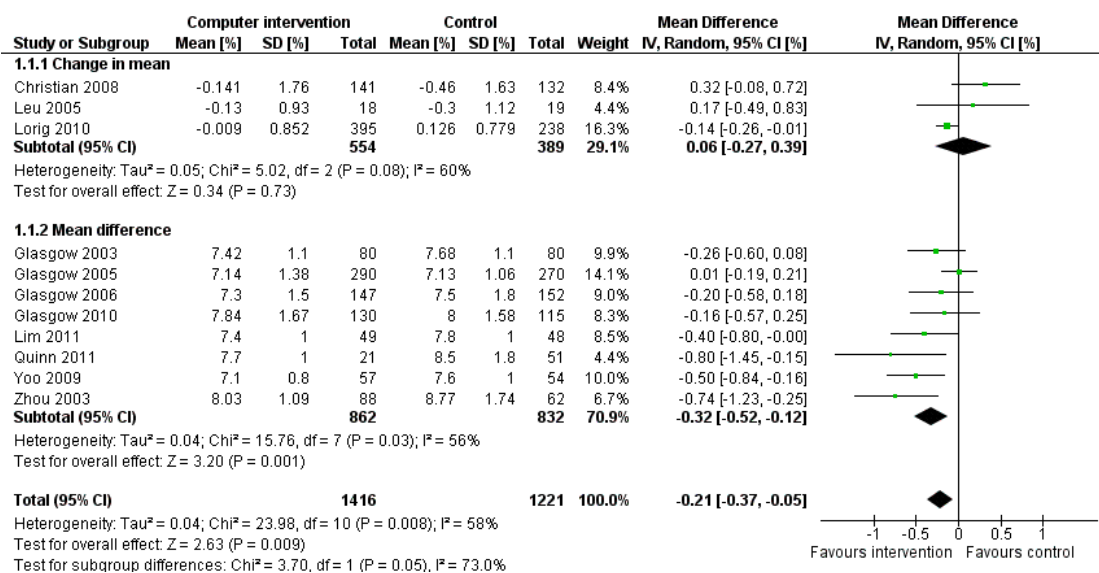
and one participant died in another study from complications of a cerebrovascular attack (Leu 2005). No further details were provided in the study reports.

HbA1c

The effects of the interventions on HbA1c were mixed. One study relied on self-reported HbA1c monitoring and did not receive enough results to make any meaningful comment (Smith 2000). Of the remaining 15 studies the individual results were as follows: six studies reported small but statistically significant improvements in HbA1c (Lim 2011; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003), three studies reported results that favoured the intervention but did not reach statistical significance (Glasgow 2003; Lo 1996; Wise 1986) and six studies reported no significant difference between control and intervention groups (Christian 2008; Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Leu 2005).

Eleven studies provided enough data to combine in a meta-analysis (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Leu 2005; Lim 2011; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003) as shown in Figure 5. The pooled results indicate that there is a small, statistically significant difference in the outcomes between intervention and comparator groups of 2.3 mmol/mol or mean difference (MD) -0.2% (95% CI -0.4 to -0.1; 2637 participants, 11 trials, Analysis 1.1). There was substantial heterogeneity in the effects of the interventions ($I^2 = 58\%$).

Figure 5. Forest plot of comparison: 1 HbA1c, outcome: 1.1 HbA1c [%].



One study commented on a subgroup analysis looking at participants with higher HbA1c at baseline (Lorig 2010). Lorig 2010 found that for patients with a baseline HbA1c equal to or greater than 7.0%, the difference between treatment and control arms increased from -0.14% (overall) to -0.6% (P = 0.010) suggesting patients with HbA1c greater than 7% might benefit more than patients with better baseline glycaemic control.

Two studies seemed to favour the control group for HbA1c (Christian 2008; Leu 2005). Christian et al suggested a potential for bias in their report. Fifty-one per cent of participants in the study had their hypoglycaemic medication adjusted by their healthcare providers during the trial: the control group patients who had their medication changed saw their HbA1c reduce by -0.9% while intervention group patients who had their medication changed saw their HbA1c reduced by just -0.04% (P = 0.02). The effect of the change in treatment of the control group appears to be much larger than the treatment effect of the interventions and could be a confounding factor. A subgroup analysis removing this study did not significantly change the heterogeneity of the overall meta-analysis (I² = 56%) but the pooled effect of the interventions on HbA1c improved slightly to -2.7 mmol/mol or -0.3% (95% CI -0.4 to -0.1; Analysis 1.2). Leu et al (Leu 2005) was the only study included in the meta-analysis carried out on a mixed population of people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes (74% had type 2 diabetes). A subgroup analysis removing this study did not significantly change the heterogeneity of the overall meta-analysis (I² = 56%) but the pooled effect of the interventions on HbA1c improved slightly to -2.5 mmol/mol or -0.2% (95% CI -0.4 to -0.1; Analysis 1.3).

Secondary outcomes

Cognitions

Change in knowledge and understanding: four of four studies reported positive effects of the interventions on knowledge (Lo 1996; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008; Wise 1986). Lo et al (Lo 1996) showed an increase from 10.9 to 14.3 (mean scores) on the DKN diabetes knowledge scale but this was not significantly different to a control face-to-face education group. The intervention group in Quinn 2008 was more likely to report being able to better control their diabetes based on their knowledge of food choices compared with the control group (91% versus 50%), measured using SDSCA diabetes self-care questionnaire. Wise 1986 showed a statistically significant increase in knowledge-based assessment scores expressed as a knowledge index. Lorig 2010 showed statistically significant improvements in knowledge, skill and confidence measures using the Patient Activation Measure (PAM) at six months and 18 months.

Self-efficacy: both studies measuring self-efficacy suggested positive effects of interventions (Lorig 2010; Quinn 2008). Lorig 2010 showed a statistically significant increase in self-efficacy at six

months, measured on the diabetes self-efficacy scale, and this persisted up to 18 months after the start of the trial. Quinn 2008 used the SDSCA diabetes self-care questionnaire as above to show patients using the intervention were more likely to report being able to better control their diabetes based on their confidence (100% versus 75%).

Behaviours

Physical activity: the effects of interventions on physical activity were mixed. Christian 2008 showed that the percentage of intervention patients who achieved a metabolic equivalent minutes (MET- min equivalent) of 150 or more minutes of physical activity or exercise per week at a moderate level of intensity increased from 26% at baseline to 53% at 12 months (P = 0.001), compared to the control group which showed an increase from 30% to 37% (P = 0.27). Two studies showed small increases in physical activity that did not reach statistical significance (Glasgow 2003; Lorig 2010). One study reported statistically significant improvements in physical activity in the intervention group based on subgroup analysis (Glasgow 2010). One study found no improvement in diabetes self-care SDSCA questionnaire scores for exercise after three months (Quinn 2008).

Diet: six studies looked at changes in diet and five reported statistically significant improvements (Christian 2008; Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Quinn 2008). Glasgow 1997 demonstrated a statistically significant improvement in the food habits questionnaire and four-day food record in the intervention group. The intervention group in Glasgow 2003 showed a statistically significant improvement in Kristal Fat and Fiber Behavior (FFB) scale and the Block/NCI Fat Screener. The study Glasgow 2006 showed a significant and clinically meaningful reduction in dietary fat intake; however, there were no overall differences in fruit and vegetable consumption between control and intervention groups (Analysis 2.1). Quinn 2008 showed a statistically significant improvement in the diabetes self-care SDSCA score for diet. Glasgow 2010 reported a statistically significant improvement in healthy eating habits measured on the Starting the Conversation scale. Christian 2008 showed a statistically non significant improvement in the intervention group, who reduced total self-reported energy intake by a mean of 947 kcal/wk (8.3%) per patient versus a 507 kcal/wk (4.4%) reduction for controls (P = 0.06), Analysis 2.3. When data about changes in dietary behaviour from three studies (Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Christian 2008) were combined in a meta-analysis (looking at dietary fat intake, healthy eating habits and energy intake respectively), it suggested a statistically significant improvement in dietary change scores from using computer-based interventions: pooled effect standardised mean difference (SMD) -0.29 (95% CI -0.43 to -0.15; 819 participants; 3 trials; Analysis 2.4).

Social support

Change in social support: [Glasgow 2003](#) showed a small increase in diabetes total support scale from a baseline mean of 4.14 to 4.96, $P < 0.05$. [Smith 2000](#) measured social support using the Personal Resource Questionnaire (PRS) but there was no statistically significant change.

Biological markers

Blood pressure: Five studies looked at changes in blood pressure ([Christian 2008](#); [Glasgow 2010](#); [Leu 2005](#); [Quinn 2011](#); [Yoo 2009](#)). Two studies looked at differences in mean systolic and diastolic blood pressures and found no significant difference between intervention and control groups ([Christian 2008](#); [Quinn 2011](#)). [Glasgow 2010](#) reported mean arterial pressures and found no significant differences between control and intervention groups after four months. One study reported percentages of the groups that were hypertensive ([Leu 2005](#)) and found that at the end of the study 64% of intervention patients were "hypertensive" (not defined) in the intervention group compared with 68% in the control group ($P = 0.041$). [Yoo 2009](#) reported mean systolic and diastolic blood pressures and found a statistically significant decrease in the intervention group - systolic blood pressure dropped from 127 ± 14 mm Hg to 120 ± 19 mm Hg, $P = 0.001$ and diastolic blood pressure decreased from 78 ± 10 mm Hg to 74 ± 8 mm Hg, $P < 0.001$.

Blood lipid levels (Analysis 4.1; Analysis 4.2; Analysis 4.3; Analysis 4.4; Analysis 4.5; Analysis 4.6; Analysis 4.7; Analysis 4.8): Ten studies reported blood lipid results ([Christian 2008](#); [Glasgow 1997](#); [Glasgow 2003](#); [Glasgow 2005](#); [Glasgow 2006](#); [Glasgow 2010](#); [Lim 2011](#); [Quinn 2011](#); [Yoo 2009](#); [Zhou 2003](#)). The results were mixed. Four studies found statistically significant improvements in blood lipid profiles: [Christian 2008](#) - reduced total cholesterol and LDL, [Glasgow 1997](#) - reduced total cholesterol; [Glasgow 2003](#), [Yoo 2009](#) - reduced total cholesterol, LDL and triglycerides; however one of those studies ([Christian 2008](#)), attributed the difference in lipids to differences in the use of lipid-lowering medication. Six studies found no evidence of improvement in blood lipid levels in the intervention groups ([Glasgow 2005](#); [Glasgow 2006](#); [Glasgow 2010](#); [Lim 2011](#); [Quinn 2011](#); [Zhou 2003](#)). Seven studies provided enough data to combine in a meta-analysis and the overall result was not statistically significant: pooled effect SMD -0.11 (95% CI -0.28 to 0.05; 1625 participants; 7 trials; Analysis 4.9 with subgroups).

Body mass index (BMI) and weight: five studies reported changes in BMI ([Glasgow 1997](#); [Glasgow 2010](#); [Lim 2011](#); [Yoo 2009](#); [Zhou 2003](#)). Four of those studies reported no significant difference in BMI between intervention or control groups ([Glasgow 1997](#); [Glasgow 2010](#); [Lim 2011](#); [Yoo 2009](#)). The study [Zhou 2003](#) showed a statistically significant drop in BMI from 24.0 to 23.1, $P < 0.01$. Four studies reported changes in weight ([Christian 2008](#); [Glasgow 2006](#); [Lim 2011](#); [Yoo 2009](#)). [Christian 2008](#) reported

that when mean changes in body weight were compared between intervention and control groups, no significant differences were found; however, 21% of intervention patients sustained a weight loss of 5% of total body weight or greater at 12 months compared with 10.6% of controls, $P < 0.01$ while 32% of intervention patients at 12 months had sustained a weight loss of 2.7 kg or more compared to 19% of control patients, $P = 0.01$. [Glasgow 2006](#) found a small but statistically significant reduction in weight in the intervention group of 0.7 kg, $P = 0.007$. [Yoo 2009](#) and [Lim 2011](#) found no significant differences in the weight of intervention and control groups after three months and six months respectively. Five studies provided enough data to combine in a meta-analysis which showed no statistically significant evidence of benefit pooled effect: SMD -0.07 (95% CI -0.20 to 0.05; 1025 participants; 5 trials; Analysis 3.1 with subgroups).

Emotional outcomes

Mood disorders (anxiety or depression): six studies that looked at depression showed no significant change in mood. [Glasgow 2003](#) used the Centre for Epidemiologic depression scale but found no statistically significant improvement with the intervention. Three studies using PHQ-9 questionnaires did not show any statistically significant improvement in scores ([Glasgow 2006](#); [Lorig 2010](#); [Quinn 2011](#)). Two studies looked at incidence of depression in the intervention and control groups, and there was no statistically significant difference at the end of the trial ([Glasgow 2005](#); [Quinn 2008](#)).

Other outcomes

Adverse effects: one study reported a participant withdrawing due to anxiety related to the study ([Wise 1986](#)). One study noted non-statistically significant increase in minor hypoglycaemic episodes in the intervention group but no difference in major or nocturnal hypoglycaemic episodes ([Lim 2011](#)). [Quinn 2011](#) specifically stated there were no study-related adverse events.

Cost-effectiveness and economic data: [Glasgow 1997](#) looked at the cost per patient for a touch screen dietary intervention. Depending on the volume of patients seen, the cost per patient in 1997 ranged from \$115 to \$139, with a cost per unit reduction of cholesterol between \$7 to \$8.40 and a cost per 1% reduction in fat of \$52 to \$63. One study looked at health behaviour and resource utilisation but found no significant difference between intervention or control groups ([Lorig 2010](#)).

Behaviour change techniques

The behaviour change techniques used in each intervention are described in Appendix 9. These have been grouped according to their apparent impact on HbA1c when used in interventions included in this systematic review in Appendix 10. The two be-

behaviour change techniques used most commonly by interventions that had a significant impact on HbA1c were: Prompt self-monitoring of behavioural outcome and Provide feedback on performance. In contrast, Provide information on consequences of behaviour in general, Goal setting (behaviour) and Barrier identification/Problem solving were the behaviour change techniques most commonly associated with interventions that had no significant impact on HbA1c.

The published reports of studies involving complex interventions are seldom reported in enough detail to replicate them (Michie 2009). This was true of the studies included in this review, limiting the possibility of specifying interventions in terms of their component behaviour change techniques or identifying their likely mechanisms of action. Those we were able to identify are listed in Appendix 9. Since there were not enough studies to conduct a meta-regression to investigate which techniques were effective, an exploratory exercise was conducted by considering the techniques that featured most commonly in effective, compared with ineffective interventions and inspecting patterns of association between techniques and the effective with effective interventions (Appendix 10). Prompting self-monitoring of behavioural outcomes and providing feedback on performance were the most commonly used techniques in interventions that had a statistically significant impact on HbA1c, while providing information on the consequences of behaviour, goal setting and barrier identification/problem solving were the most commonly used techniques in ineffective interventions.

There is a cluster of techniques associated with positive outcomes that have been identified in meta-regression analyses of interventions to increase physical activity and healthy eating (Dombrowski 2011; Michie 2009a; Michie 2012). The cluster of techniques is consistent with Control Theory (Carver 1982) which postulates that there is a synergistic association between receiving information about one's behaviour (via 'self-monitoring' or 'feedback') and having a strategy for acting on this information ('action planning' or 'information on where and when to perform the behaviour'). The former provides a cue and/or motivation for the latter.

Overall, in the interventions we looked at in this review, goal setting was associated with ineffective interventions - in contrast to the evidence cited above. This may be because goal setting was very rarely included in the same interventions as feedback or self-monitoring. Five interventions used goal setting as part of the intervention (Christian 2008; Glasgow 1997; Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010) - but only one of the interventions provided feedback on how the participant was doing (Glasgow 2010). Control theory would predict that goal setting would be less effective if presented without feedback. The finding may also be the result of goals being suggested by health professionals or computer programs rather than being set by participants themselves or in a collaborative way; however, this level of detail was not provided in the descriptions of the interventions in published reports.

Classification using taxonomy for education

There were too few papers with too little detail about the education components to allow meaningful use of the taxonomy for educational interventions.

Subgroup analysis

A previous meta-analysis of diabetes self-management interventions (18/20 were face-to-face) showed a greater effect from shorter studies with short-term follow-up (Minet 2010). Therefore, we performed a subgroup analysis to see if there was any suggestion this hypothesis might also be true for computer-based self-management interventions. The studies were divided into short-to-medium term outcomes (follow-up less than six months) and medium-to-long term outcomes (follow-up for six months or longer). When outcomes at less than six months were combined (Glasgow 2006; Glasgow 2010; Leu 2005; Yoo 2009; Zhou 2003), heterogeneity was reduced ($I^2 = 43\%$) with a larger effect size for HbA1c of -3.5 mmol/mol or -0.3% (95% CI -0.6 to -0.1; Analysis 1.6). Combining studies with outcomes measured at six months or later (Christian 2008; Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2005; Lim 2011; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011), the overall effect size for HbA1c was smaller and no longer statistically significant: MD -1.5 mmol/mol or -0.1% (95% CI -0.3 to 0.1; Analysis 1.7). Heterogeneity was still substantial ($I^2 = 61\%$).

A recent meta-analysis of the effect of mobile phone intervention for diabetes on glycaemic control (Liang 2011) suggested that mobile phone-based interventions led to statistically significant improvements in glycaemic control and self-management in diabetes care, especially for patients with type 2 diabetes. Combining the three mobile phone-based interventions in the meta-analysis (Lim 2011; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009) found a statistically and clinically significant reduction in HbA1c of -5.5 mmol/mol or MD of -0.5% (95% CI -0.7 to -0.3) and heterogeneity decreased dramatically ($I^2 = 0\%$; Analysis 1.8). Interventions delivered at home (Glasgow 2003; Glasgow 2010; Lorig 2010; Zhou 2003) appeared to have a smaller effect: MD -2.7 mmol/mol or -0.3% (95% CI -0.5 to -0.04%) and the result was still associated with moderate heterogeneity ($I^2 = 47\%$; Analysis 1.9).

Sensitivity analysis

There were insufficient data to perform most of the sensitivity analyses proposed in the protocol stage. The studies that had mixed populations of type 1 and type 2 diabetes did not have enough data to be used in the main meta-analysis. Using a fixed-effect model for the meta-analysis of effects of the interventions on HbA1c, the pooled effect on HbA1c is -1.7 mmol/mol or -0.2% (95% CI -0.3 to -0.1) - smaller than when using the random-effects model, but still statistically significant.

A sensitivity analysis to look at unit of analysis issues was car-

ried out by removing two studies that were cluster-randomised (Glasgow 2005; Quinn 2011; Analysis 1.4). The pooled effect on HbA1c increased slightly to a MD of -2.4 mmol/mol or -0.2% (95% CI -0.4 to -0.1) and remained statistically significant.

One study included in the meta-analysis (Glasgow 2003) did not provide details of numbers of participants in each group. It was assumed that equal numbers of participants were allocated to each arm of the trial but no allowance was made for attrition and therefore, the study is likely to be over-powered in the final meta-analysis. Removing this study from the meta-analysis had no significant effect on the results other than slightly smaller confidence intervals: pooled effect size is a MD of -2.3 mmol/mol or -0.2% (95% CI -0.4 to -0.04%; Analysis 1.5).

DISCUSSION

Summary of main results

Primary outcomes

Sixteen randomised controlled trials with 3578 participants were included in the review. These studies included a wide spectrum of interventions covering clinic-based brief interventions, Internet-based interventions that could be used from home and mobile phone-based interventions. The mean age of participants was between 46 to 67 years old and mean time since diagnosis was 6 to 13 years. The duration of the interventions varied between 1 to 12 months.

Eleven studies provided enough data about glycaemic control to use HbA1c in a meta-analysis. The pooled results indicate that there is a small, statistically significant difference in the outcomes between intervention and comparator groups of -2.3 mmol/mol

or -0.2% (95% CI -0.4 to -0.1) that favours the interventions (Analysis 1.1). This was associated with substantial heterogeneity ($I^2 = 58\%$) suggesting inconsistencies between the effects of the different interventions. However, the impact on HbA1c was larger in the mobile phone subgroup with a pooled effect on HbA1c from three studies of -5.5 mmol/mol or -0.5% (95% CI -0.7 to -0.3) and no heterogeneity ($I^2 = 0\%$; Analysis 1.8). The effects of computer-based interventions may wear off over time as combining results from studies lasting six months or longer showed the overall effect size for HbA1c was smaller and no longer statistically significant: -1.5 mmol/mol or -0.1% (95% CI -0.3 to 0.1; Analysis 1.7).

Five studies looked at health-related quality of life (Glasgow 2005; Glasgow 2006; Lorig 2010; Quinn 2011; Smith 2000), but there was no evidence to show any significant improvement with the computer-based interventions.

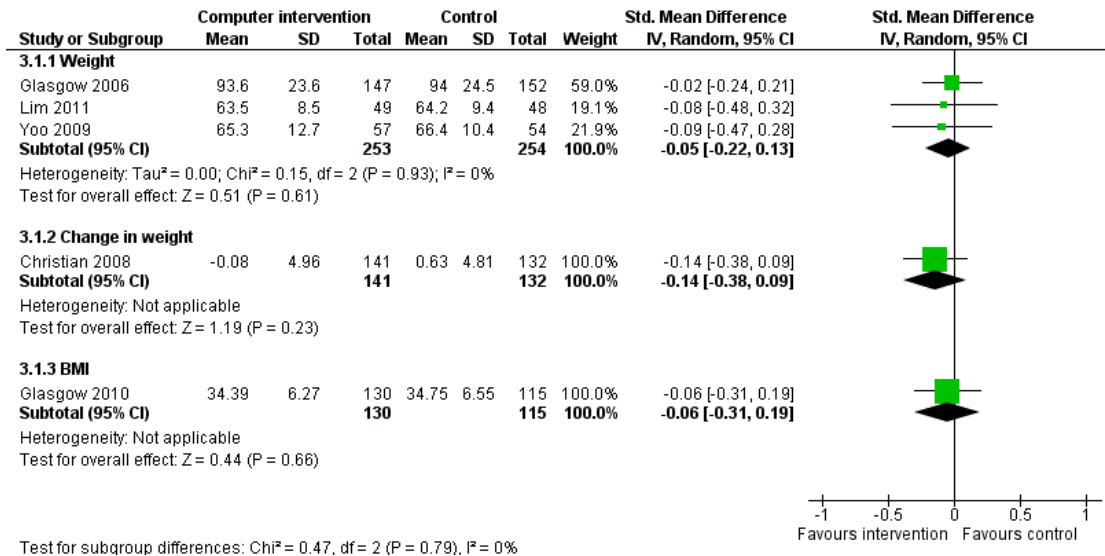
A total of three deaths out of 3578 participants was reported in the 16 studies.

Cognitive impact of computer-based diabetes self-management interventions

There was some evidence to show computer-based interventions have positive effects on two possible mediators: knowledge and self-efficacy. However, there seemed to be difficulty in converting the positive effects on knowledge and self-efficacy into behavioural change such as physical activity: in only two out of five studies did there appear to an increase in physical activity.

Six studies measured effects on diet and five showed some statistically significant improvements in questionnaire scores - but the clinical benefits and impact on health outcomes of these changes is unknown as the effects of interventions on weight or body mass index (BMI), were not convincing with no statistically significant improvements in weight seen when the results from five studies were combined in a meta-analysis (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Forest plot of comparison: 4 Weight, outcome: 4.1 Weight.



Effect of the interventions on biological outcomes

The evidence for computer-based self-management interventions improving blood pressure was mixed. A brief touch screen intervention aimed at increasing physical activity had no significant effect on blood pressure but two more intensive interventions - a pager intervention and a mobile phone-based intervention - showed statistically significant improvements in blood pressure. This might suggest that improving blood pressure requires more frequent interactions and helps increase adherence with medication.

Effects of these interventions on cholesterol were quite mixed. Four studies showed evidence of improvement, three showed no difference. One of the studies that demonstrated a statistically significant improvement in lipid profile attributed this effect to changes in medication rather than the intervention - so it appears there were three studies showing benefits and three showing no difference. Overall, when seven studies providing sufficient data were combined in a meta-analysis, the pooled effect showed no statistically significant effects (Analysis 4.9).

Behaviour change techniques used by the intervention and mechanisms of action

On the subgroup analysis looking at mobile phone-based interventions (Lim 2011; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009), all of these interventions provided feedback on performance and provided prompts or cues for desired behaviour around blood glucose self-monitoring (see Appendix 11). This subgroup was associated with a larger improvement in HbA1c than other interventions, which suggests

that the effects of interventions for blood glucose self-monitoring might be explained by control theory. Developing an understanding of the theoretical basis of effective interventions can inform the future development of more effective interventions.

Definitions of self-management interventions in the literature

There is currently no clear distinction in the literature between interventions that use information technology to deliver *computer-based behaviour change support* and interventions that use information technology to deliver *health professional-based behaviour change support*. This review was intended for the former but it was often difficult to make the distinction from study reports.

Overall completeness and applicability of evidence

We identified sixteen randomised controlled trials (RCTs) with 3578 participants that met our inclusion criteria. These studies included a wide spectrum of interventions covering clinic-based brief interventions, Internet-based interventions that could be used from home and mobile phone-based interventions. All the studies included in the meta-analysis were on patients with type 2 diabetes only and mixed-gender populations. The studies were carried out in four different countries (USA, UK, China and South Korea), one study was carried out on Latin/Hispanic patients and one study had a separate arm for native Alaskans/American Indians (not controlled so the results have not been included

in this review). Fifteen studies were published in English, one was translated from Chinese.

On average, patients were aged between 46 to 67 years old and had lived with diabetes for 6 to 13 years. The (mean) age range of participants in the included studies was relatively small.

This review only focused on computer-based *self-management* interventions, not tele-health interventions. We were looking for interventions that could be used by patients on their own and not just used to communicate with healthcare professionals. We therefore excluded a number of remote case-management interventions and tele-health interventions.

Quality of the evidence

All of the studies included in the review are RCTs but the quality of the trials was variable. Most studies did not provide details about the randomisation process and assessor blinding so it is difficult to make a judgement about how biased some of the studies are. The nature of some of the trials and the intervention/control combination would have made it impossible to blind the participants. Some of the control groups had quite active treatment - e.g. apparent significant increases in hypoglycaemic medication, a control arm that included goal setting or increased monitoring by healthcare providers - that might reduce the apparent effectiveness of the interventions.

Most of the study reports did not provide details about how hypoglycaemic medication changed in groups over the duration of the trials. Potentially this is an important issue - one study (Christian 2008) suggested that the control group had significantly larger increases in hypoglycaemic medication during the study as part of usual care and this is why the control group had better glycaemic control at the end of the trial. However, the opposite is also possible - if better informed or self-managing patients take more interest in their treatment and are therefore more likely to increase their medication then the success of these interventions would be due to improved concordance with treatment rather than due to changes in lifestyle. If computer-based self-management interventions mainly act through improving effectiveness of existing treatments rather than directly affecting patient outcomes this would still be an important potential benefit of these interventions as long as this was due to change in patient behaviour. However, if intervention groups had their medication increased by their medical teams simply due to increased monitoring as part of trial procedures, it would not be appropriate to describe this as a beneficial effect of the interventions.

The interventions appear to be quite heterogenous and the length of follow-up varied from 2 to 12 months. All the interventions looked at effects on HbA1c as an important outcome, but the other primary and secondary outcomes varied greatly and the instruments used to measure them were often different, which made it very difficult to compare or synthesise the results from different studies.

Potential biases in the review process

The searches were performed on electronic bibliographic databases but most of these were medical. We did not explore non-medical sources so we might have missed some computer-based research. Intervention descriptions were usually brief so in spite of clearly defining our intervention in the protocol, deciding which interventions fitted our definition of a computer-based self-management intervention often required discussion with the steering group and judgements based on limited descriptions and interpretation. Although we looked for unpublished data, we were unable to find any unpublished RCTs that fulfilled the inclusion criteria so the review contains published data only. The complex nature of these interventions meant that there were a large number of primary and secondary outcomes for which data were extracted, but these were specified in advance in the protocol and we have only reported on outcomes specified in the protocol.

Agreements and disagreements with other studies or reviews

Overall effects of computer-based diabetes self-management interventions

The current evidence on the use of new technology in diabetes is still evolving and has shown mixed results. A Cochrane systematic review of interactive healthcare applications looked at 24 RCTs in a range of chronic diseases and found mostly positive effects on users, with users tending to become more knowledgeable, feel better supported, with possible improved behavioural and clinical outcomes compared with non-users (Murray 2005). This review also identified a need for more high-quality studies with large sample sizes to confirm these findings.

Another systematic review looked at 26 studies of interactive computer-assisted technology in diabetes care (Jackson 2006). The reviewers felt the data were too heterogeneous for a meta-analysis and provided a narrative report. It identified 14 studies that looked at HbA1c levels and found that 6 of 14 studies demonstrated significant declines in HbA1c. Studies that looked at changes in body weight, blood pressure, micro-albuminuria and renal function found no significant differences post-intervention, while effects on lipids and depression were mixed. The interventions also appeared to improve healthcare utilisation with more foot examinations and HbA1c monitoring but had no effect on hospital admissions.

On the other hand, a meta-analysis looking at computer-delivered interventions for health promotion found seven RCTs with elements of diabetes self-management and found no evidence to support their use (Portnoy 2008). It found that in general, computer-delivered interventions could lead to immediate post-intervention improvements in cognitive elements such as knowledge, attitudes

and intentions and help modify behaviours such as dietary intake, tobacco use, safer sex and general health behaviours, but found no evidence to support computer interventions for more complex behaviour change such as diabetes self-management. However, the outcome measures and data analysis used to come to this conclusion about diabetes self-management were not described in any detail and it acknowledged the relative paucity of evidence in the field.

A review of the effectiveness of information (IT)-based diabetes management interventions looked at 15 studies of which nine were RCTs (Costa 2009). The authors felt that due to the limitations of the studies reviewed, the effectiveness of existing IT-based interventions was unclear and difficult to attribute solely to the interventions. The review concluded that future research efforts needed to focus on methodological issues to produce valid, reliable and generalisable findings.

Mode of delivery

A more recent review focused only on the effect of mobile phone interventions for diabetes on glycaemic control (Liang 2011) and reported on a meta-analysis of 22 trials with 1657 participants. This showed that mobile phone interventions for diabetes self-management reduced HbA1c values by a mean of 6 mmol/mol or 0.5% (95% CI 0.3 to 0.7) over a median follow-up duration of six months. This is similar to the effect size seen in this review when the effects of the three mobile phone interventions (Lim 2011 ; Quinn 2011; Yoo 2009) were pooled.

Duration and intensity of interventions

A meta-analysis of 47 randomised controlled trials of self-care management intervention in type 2 diabetes has been mentioned previously (Minet 2010). The meta-regression undertaken in this review suggested that 1. self-care management interventions might have a higher effect if the programme was compact with sessions closely grouped together; and 2. the effect of self-care management interventions might decrease over time. The authors suggested that providing sessions more closely grouped together, as noted in the shorter interventions, might have allowed participants to remember and better synthesise the information, thus potentially increasing their effectiveness.

Effects on diet and weight

A recent systematic review looked for evidence that the use of interactive electronic media to facilitate dietary behaviour change and found no evidence of their effectiveness and that they were at least as expensive as other individual behaviour change interventions (Harris 2011).

Summary

This review supports the findings of the reviews above which suggest that, although popular, computer-based diabetes self-management interventions have limited evidence supporting their use. These interventions are poorly understood and more research is needed into their design, delivery and effectiveness and future interventions would benefit from evidence-based components and more detailed reporting and evaluation. This review also supports the suggestions that 1. mobile phone-delivered interventions may be more effective than interventions delivered over the Internet and 2. compact programmes with frequent sessions might be more effective, but the benefits could be short-lived.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

Implications for practice

Computer-based diabetes self-management interventions to manage type 2 diabetes appear to have a small beneficial effect on blood glucose control and the effect was larger in the mobile phone subgroup - possibly due to interventions using control theory being more effective than interventions based on other theories. Existing interventions do not show adequate evidence as ways of improving other biological outcomes or any cognitive, behavioural or emotional outcomes.

Implications for research

There were a number of questions raised in the introduction section of this review to describe why we felt this review was important. The bulk of this review has tried to answer the first question about the efficacy of computer-based self-management interventions for adults with type 2 diabetes, but data on the remaining questions were insufficient. We therefore suggest that the following aspects are important for future research in this area.

Uncertainty about active components - how do they work?

1. The small treatment effect (2.3 mmol/mol or 0.2%) on glycosylated haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) with computer-based self-management interventions is a difference that would be important if it could be achieved and sustained across the population via the Internet at very low cost, but far from cost-effective if it required significant nursing support and/or additional drugs. However, there is currently no clear distinction in the literature between interventions that use information technology (IT) to deliver relatively automated *computer-based* behaviour change support, and those interventions that use information technology to deliver *health professional-based* behaviour change support by using IT for remote consultations

(tele-health'). In view of the adoption of such interventions based on potential cost-effectiveness, making that distinction is likely to be important and it would be helpful if interventions were designed, described and tested with that in mind.

2. There were few published protocols for the studies and the theoretical basis, active ingredients and 'dose' of the intervention were not always clearly described in the published reports. As these interventions are therapeutic agents, it may be beneficial to explicitly 'prescribe' interventions for trials and formally state the active ingredients (behaviour change techniques), dose (frequency and intensity of interactions), route (mode of delivery - Internet, mobile phone etc) and duration of treatment.

3. It is not clear why interventions delivered over mobile phones appear to be more effective - it could be due to convenience (and therefore adherence), intensity of the interventions (mobile phone interventions were more likely to have multiple daily contacts) or the behaviour change techniques used by the interventions (mobile phone interventions were more likely to use cues to prompt behaviour and provide rapid feedback afterwards).

4. Given the heterogeneity in design, reporting and effect of computer-based interventions it is also important to find the most effective components or behaviour change techniques to achieve the desired impact.

5. Interventions are more likely to be effective if the selection and combination of behaviour change techniques is informed by appropriate behaviour change theories. For example, the interventions in this review often used goal setting as a behaviour change technique but failed to provide feedback on performance. The design of interventions should follow systematic, scientific procedures, including being better informed by theory and evidence.

6. Most studies did not report on any changes in hypoglycaemic medication in intervention or control groups. Without that information it is difficult to determine whether changes in HbA1c are due to changes in behaviour or changes in medication. It is possible that the benefits of self-management interventions might be due to better concordance with existing treatment or more intensive treatment requested by more engaged patients. It would be helpful if future studies provided more detail on changes in hypoglycaemic medication during the study to explore this further.

What is the clinical significance of any reported benefits of these interventions?

1. All the studies that looked for improvements in possible mediators such as knowledge and self-efficacy reported positive effects, but more research is needed into translating those improvements into improvements in health outcomes.

2. It is also currently not obvious what the clinical significance of the small improvements in diet and blood pressure seen in current interventions is likely to be, so more research is needed on this.

3. This review suggests that current interventions do not improve depression, weight loss, physical activity or blood lipid profiles so interventions to target these areas need to be designed differently to existing interventions.

Are they cost effective? What harm can come from computer-based interventions?

More studies need to be done looking at the cost-effectiveness of different types of computer-based interventions. Studies with longer follow-up are needed to determine the long-term impact on health outcomes of these interventions and look for evidence of harm.

Which populations and sub-populations do they benefit?

There also needs to be more research to determine which population groups will benefit the most from these interventions, e.g. HbA1c greater than 53 mmol/mol or 7%. It would also be important to explore the impact of these interventions on older patients. However, it is important to consider that older patients would include people with new onset type 2 diabetes that is slowly progressive, and those that have long-standing diabetes with more advanced disease and the same intervention might not be appropriate for both groups.

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* Indicates the major publication for the study

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES

Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]

Christian 2008

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial	
Participants	Inclusion criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Latin/Hispanic in ethnicity with a language preference of either English or Spanish 2. Aged 18 to 75 years with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes 3. A BMI of 25 or greater 4. Uninsured, Medicaid eligible or Medicare beneficiaries. Exclusion criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substance use or abuse 2. Severe arthritis or other medical condition limiting physical activity 3. Recent MI or stroke or PVD 4. Undergone or scheduled for gastric bypass surgery. 	
Interventions	Number of centres: 2 Country: USA Setting: Outpatient clinic settings at 2 large urban community-based health centres - the Denver Health and Hospital Authority's Sandoz Westside Neighbourhood centre in Denver and the Pueblo Community Health Center Pueblo	
Outcomes	Primary end point: weight loss, expressed as mean weight loss and the fraction of participants in each group achieving a clinically meaningful weight loss defined as a 5% reduction in body weight Secondary end points: change in physical activity estimated in metabolic equivalent task minutes, change in energy intake, change in lipids and HbA1c levels	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Supported by grant 5R44DK060272-3 from the US National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to PHCC LP Pueblo Colorado Publication status: Peer reviewed journal	
Stated aim of study	"To test the effect of physicians providing brief health lifestyle counselling to patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus during usual care visits"	
Notes	Authors contacted: Blinding of outcome assessment - there was some blinding but not for all cases	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement

Christian 2008 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	“Assignments to 1 of these 2 groups were based on a computer-generated random number sequence”
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	“Assignment was concealed to the RA by a padded envelope that also contained a kit of baseline enrolment materials”
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	“Neither physicians nor patients could be blinded to the intervention assignment” Comment: Authors contacted: no blinding for outcome assessment
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	“Analyses were tied to a priori hypotheses. We conducted intention-to-treat analyses using a “last-record-carried-forward” method in which the last available data from dropouts were used when analysing 12-month data” Follow-up rates: Intervention: 141/155 = 91%. Control: 132/155 = 85%
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement.
Other bias	Unclear risk	“Ninety-eight percent of patients were taking antihyperglycaemic medications, and 51% of patients had changes in their medication regimen during the study. We were not able to determine the independent effects of changes in medication regimens on HbA1c levels. However, there was a significantly greater reduction in HbA1c level for control patients who had their dosage of antihyperglycaemic drugs increased or the type of medication changed—a -0.9 reduction in HbA1c level vs a -0.04 reduction for intervention patients who also had changes in their anti-diabetes drug regimen” Comment: The effect of the intervention on HbA1c is likely to be smaller than the effects of changes in anti-hyperglycaemic medication

Glasgow 1997

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial	
Participants	Inclusion criteria: 1. Having type 1 or type 2 diabetes 2. aged 40 or older 3. Primarily responsible for one's own diabetes dietary self-management (not institution-alised) Exclusion criteria: Not stated	
Interventions	Number of centres: 2 Country: USA Setting: Offices of 2 Internists	
Outcomes	Dietary measures including the Kristal Food Habits Questionnaire and 4-day food record; BMI, cholesterol and HbA1c; Patient satisfaction and cost assessment	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Supported by grant 3DK-R01-35524 from the National Institutes of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases Publication status: Peer reviewed journal	
Stated aim of study	The primary purpose of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a brief medical office-based intervention in helping adult diabetes patients follow a healthy low-saturated fat eating plan. Secondary purposes were to 1) evaluate the impact of intervention on physiological (cholesterol; GHb) and quality-of-life outcomes and 2) evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention for different patient subgroups	
Notes	We requested further information about allocation concealment, any blinding of outcome assessors, raw means and SDs for outcome measures but received no response	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Two hundred and six patients were randomised within physician practice, using a table of random numbers, to either Usual Care or to Brief Intervention"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement. No comment on blinding of outcome assessors

Glasgow 1997 (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	“Sixteen percent of participants could not be contacted for the one year follow-up. Attrition was not differential across condition (16.7% vs 15.3% for intervention vs. control)” Comment: No reasons for missing data.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Glasgow 2003

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: All participants were living independently; had a telephone; read and wrote English; were diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least 1 year, and were not planning to move out of the area during the next year. Those patients taking insulin met the Welborn criteria for type 2 diabetes based on age at diagnosis, BMI, and age of insulin initiation Exclusion criteria: Not type 2, under 40 or over 75 years, incapacitated or too ill, diagnosed less than 1 year, moving or not in area, can not read or write English and Other
Interventions	Number of centres: Patients recruited from 16 physicians at 6 different medical offices Country: USA Setting: At home
Outcomes	Effectiveness was evaluated by improvement from baseline to the final assessment 10 months later using multiple measures within each of three different domains: behavioural, biological, and psychosocial outcomes Dietary outcomes were assessed by improvements on the Kristal Fat and Fiber Behavior (FFB) scale and the Block/ NCI Fat Screener Diabetes care was measured by a composite of care recommendations from the American Diabetes Association Provider Recognition Program Physical activity was measured by the Physical Activity Scale for the Elderly Biological outcomes were evaluated by changes in HbA1C and lipid ratios Psychosocial outcomes were measured by the Diabetes Support Scale and the Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression scale (CES-D) Delivery of intervention components and participant usage of the website
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Supported in part by Grant RO1-DK-51581 from the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases Publication status: Peer reviewed journal

Glasgow 2003 (Continued)

Stated aim of study	“To report on the longer-term implementation across interventionists, on program usage over time and across conditions, on 10-month follow-up results on behavioral, biologic, and psychosocial outcomes, and on generalization of results across patients from the different clinics participating in the study”
Notes	We contacted the authors requesting more information on: Method of sequence generation and allocation concealment, any blinding of participants or assessors, need to know numbers in each condition, details of participants. Contacted author, no response

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement. Unclear reporting of numbers included in the trial
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Control arm received automated dietary change goals.

Glasgow 2005

Methods	Study design: cluster parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: the only inclusion criteria were age > or = 25 years, ability to read English, and type 2 diabetes, confirmed using the Welborn criteria Exclusion criteria: none stated
Interventions	Number of centres: Patients recruited from 52 physicians, 30 clinics Country: USA Setting: Primary Care practices in Colorado
Outcomes	Two primary outcomes: number of recommended laboratory screenings and recommended patient-centred care activities completed from the National Committee on Quality Assurance/American Diabetes Association Provider Recognition Program (PRP) Secondary outcomes were evaluated using the Problem Areas in Diabetes 2 quality of life

	scale, lipid and HbA1c levels, and the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 depression scale	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	<p>Language: English</p> <p>Funding: Agency for Health, Research and Quality, grant HS-10123</p> <p>Publication status: Peer reviewed journal</p>	
Stated aim of study	To determine if a patient-centred, computer-assisted diabetes care intervention increased perceived autonomy support, perceived competence (from self-determination theory), and if these constructs mediated the effect of the intervention on ADA/NCQA recommended diabetes care outcomes	
Notes		
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	“Randomization was conducted by the project statistician...” Comment: No details about method of randomisation were provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	“Randomization was conducted by the project statistician, who then notified research staff of condition assignment”. Although the study was not blinded, research staff would not be at risk of introducing selection bias as allocation was done by the statistician
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	“Randomization was conducted by the project statistician, who then notified research staff of condition assignment”. Research staff were aware of allocation
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement. Follow-up rates: Intervention: 379/469 = 81%. Control: 354/417 = 85%
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Glasgow 2006

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial	
Participants	<p>Inclusion criteria: Eligible participants were at least 25 years old, diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least 6 months, and able to read and write in English</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Physicians had the option of excluding patients for whom they felt the intervention would not be appropriate</p>	
Interventions	<p>Number of centres: multiple: Adults diagnosed with type 2 diabetes residing in the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area recruited from lists provided by 42 participating physicians (20% from mixed payer settings, and the remainder employed by Kaiser Permanente Colorado)</p> <p>Country: USA</p> <p>Setting: The primary intervention was conducted at a location external to the participant's primary care setting. This was typically a central clinic or medical office not too distant from the participant's home. including both mixed-payer, fee for-service and managed-care offices</p>	
Outcomes	Outcomes were changes in dietary behaviours (fat and fruit/vegetable intake), haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c), lipids, weight, quality of life, and depression	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	<p>Language: English</p> <p>Funding: National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases, Grant # DK35524. Copic Insurance Company introduced the project to private physician offices</p> <p>Publication status: Peer reviewed journal</p>	
Stated aim of study	The primary purposes of this article are to report on (1) the short-term (2-month) dietary, biological and quality-of-life outcomes from tailored self-management, (2) the implementation and feasibility of the programme, and (3) implications for broader dissemination	
Notes	Further information needed: Details of sequence generation and allocation concealment, any blinding, Increase in fruit and vegetable score given in text (para 1 pg 34) does not correspond with the table for intervention. Contacted author, no response	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.

Glasgow 2006 (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	“Attrition was modest (10%) by the 2-month assessment, and not different across conditions. Because of this low attrition rate, we used complete-case analyses in the present investigation, but intention-to-treat analyses with baseline values substituted for missing cases produced identical conclusions”
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Physicians had the option of excluding patients for whom they felt the intervention would not be appropriate

Glasgow 2010

Methods	Study design: randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: 25-75 years of age, diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, body mass index (BMI) of 25 kg/m ² or greater, and at least one other risk factor for heart disease (hypertension, low-density lipoprotein [LDL] > 100 or on a lipid-lowering agent, haemoglobin A1c > 7%, or being a current smoker). Additional inclusion criteria were access to a telephone and at least biweekly access to the Internet, ability to read and write in English or Spanish, and to perform mild to moderate PA Exclusion criteria: 1. Sharing same household as other participants 2. Physicians not approved 3. Do not speak either English or Spanish
Interventions	Number of centres: The study was conducted in five primary care clinics within Kaiser Permanente Colorado (KPCO) Country: USA Setting: Clinics were selected based on variability in size, location, and socioeconomic status of neighbourhood, and to maximise percentage of Latino patients
Outcomes	Behavioural Outcomes: Eating behaviours were assessed using the Ammerman et al “Starting The Conversation” scale. Estimated fat intake was assessed using the National Cancer Institute’s Percent Energy from Fat Screener. The Community Health Activities Model Program for Seniors (CHAMPS) Questionnaire was used to estimate total weekly caloric expenditure in PA. Adherence to diabetes, blood pressure, and cholesterol medications ere assessed through the medication-taking items of the Hill-Bone Compliance Scale Biological Outcomes:

	Biologic variables included BMI, haemoglobin A1c, lipids, and mean arterial pressure	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	<p>Language: English</p> <p>Funding: This study was supported by grant #DK35524 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases</p> <p>Publication status: Peer reviewed journal</p>	
Stated aim of study	<p>Internet and other interactive technology-based programs offer great potential for practical, effective, and cost-efficient diabetes self-management (DSM) programs capable of reaching large numbers of patients. This study evaluated minimal and moderate support versions of an Internet-based diabetes self-management program, compared to an enhanced usual care condition</p> <p>The purposes of this paper were to (a) evaluate the feasibility of an Internet-based DSM program (MyPath/Mi Camino) using the RE-AIM (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance) model¹⁹ (www.re-aim.org); (b) present the 4-month behavioural and biological outcomes from a practical randomised trial; and (c) experimentally investigate the incremental effects of adding support to a minimal-contact version of the Internet-based program</p>	
Notes		
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Participants were individually randomised via a computer program developed by our computer programmer and statistician"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement but the study design makes it unlikely that participants or staff were blinded
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Intention-to-treat analysis done. Follow-up rates: Intervention: 130/169 = 77%. Control: 115/132 = 87%. Significant difference in retention between groups
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial	
Participants	<p>Inclusion criteria: Patients with HbA1c values between 8.0% and 9.4% at the time of recruitment, with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Three participants were found to be ineligible (two had pacemakers, and one was trying to conceive)</p>	
Interventions	<p>Number of centres: 9 clinics, 20 primary care providers and two endocrinologists</p> <p>Country: USA</p> <p>Setting: University of Washington Physician's Network (UWPN) clinics located in Western Washington. This is a group of nine neighbourhood clinics, of which Belltown (near Downtown Seattle), Auburn, Federal Way, Factoria, and Kent/Des Moines participated (20 primary care providers and two endocrinologists)</p>	
Outcomes	<p>HbA1c was the primary outcome measure.</p> <p>Blood pressure was a secondary outcome measure. Patients' attitudes as self-reported by survey were another secondary outcome measure.</p>	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end.	
Publication details	<p>Language: English</p> <p>Funding: American Diabetes Association (Medical Scholars Award), by the Warren G. Magnuson Institute for Biomedical Research and Health Professional Training (Magnuson Scholarship), and by an Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Fellowship</p> <p>Publication status: Peer reviewed journal</p>	
Stated aim of study	This randomised, controlled study tested the effect of using a wireless two-way pager-based automated messaging system to improve diabetes control through facilitated self-management	
Notes	Further information needed: details of excluded cases, control conditions, definition of hypertension, method of sequence generation. Tried to contact author, unable to get contact details	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Prior to enrolment, an Excel spreadsheet was created that randomised 60 patients in groups of six. A stack of envelopes was created, containing the results of the randomizations. The allocation sequence was generated by the investigator"

Leu 2005 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	“This collection of envelopes was randomly “cut” in the middle, and the envelopes were numbered from 1 to 60. The sequence was concealed until the interventions were assigned at enrolment”
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	“There was no blinding in the study due to the nature of the intervention”
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Reporting of cases of attrition does not provide details about all the participants excluded in the results section. 18% dropout rate in control and intervention arms
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Lim 2011

Methods	Study design: block randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Age \geq 60. All enrolled participants had been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least 1 year, and their A1C level was 6.5%-10.5% Exclusion criteria: The study excluded patients with severe diabetes complications (e.g., diabetic foot or severe diabetic retinopathy), liver dysfunction (aspartate aminotransferase or alanine aminotransferase $>$ 2.5 times the reference level), or renal dysfunction (serum creatinine $>$ 132 μ mol/L [1.7 mg/dL]), or other medical problems that could affect study results or trial participation. The study enrolment excluded patients without a text message function on their cellular phone or who were unable to use text messages for any reason
Interventions	Number of centres: 1. Patients were recruited from the outpatient clinic of the Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (SNUBH). Participants used the intervention from home
Outcomes	The primary end point of the study was the proportion of patients achieving an A1C level of $<$ 7% without hypoglycaemia at 6 months Secondary outcomes included weight, BMI, serum lipids, frequency of blood glucose monitoring, and fasting/post-prandial blood glucose
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: “This study was supported by a grant of the Korea Healthcare technology R&D Project, Ministry for Health, Welfare & Family Affairs, Republic of Korea (A090001), a

	research grant (02-2008-036) from the SNUBH, and the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation grants funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology (M10642140004-06N4214-00410)” Publication status: Peer reviewed journal	
Stated aim of study	“To improve quality and efficiency of care for elderly patients with type 2 diabetes, we introduced elderly-friendly strategies to the clinical decision support system (CDSS)-based ubiquitous healthcare (u-healthcare) service, which is an individualized health management system using advanced medical information technology”	
Notes	Details of randomisations - Contacted author, no response.	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors’ judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	“Block randomizations was used to assign each patient” Comment: No details given. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	No blinding of participants possible with this study design. No information provided about blinding of assessors
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Dropout rates were low. 2/51 (3.9%) dropout rate in the intervention group and 4/52 (7.3%) dropout rate in the control group. No imputation for missing data
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Lo 1996

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: People with T1 and T2 diabetes at the Lismore base hospital diabetic clinic, diagnosed between 2 months and 10 years prior to this study Exclusion criteria: None stated

Interventions	Number of centres: 1 Country: Australia Setting: Community health centre office - Diabetes clinic at the Lismore base hospital	
Outcomes	Knowledge levels measured by multiple choice tests and glycated haemoglobin levels	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	Language: English Funding: IRG grant from the University of New England, Northern Rivers, New South Wales Publication status: Peer reviewed journal	
Stated aim of study	An evaluation study of the CAL program was conducted to test the following propositions: - participants who complete the CAL program will achieve a greater increase in their knowledge of diabetes mellitus management than participants who complete a conventional diabetes program. - The CAL program will motivate patients to achieve greater improvements in their glucose levels than a conventional diabetes program. - It is feasible to develop a CAL diabetes education program for home computers	
Notes	Further information needed: details of allocation and reasons for attrition. Unable to find current contact details for author	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"Participants were randomly assigned" Comment: No details given. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	No blinding of participants possible with this study design. No information provided about blinding of assessors
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement. No details provided about participants who did not complete the study. All patients who dropped out were from the control arm
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Lorig 2010

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial for 6 months. After that a subset of American Indians/native Alaskans were part of a wait-list control trial and were given the opportunity to use the intervention	
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Participants were aged 18 years, were not pregnant or in care for cancer, had physician-verified type 2 diabetes, and had access to the Internet. Recruitment was largely via the Internet, although print and broadcast media were also utilised Specific recruitment of AI/AN minorities into a separate subgroup Exclusion criteria: None stated	
Interventions	Number of centres: Online trial Country: USA Setting: Internet-based - all consents and questionnaires administered online and patients took HbA1C themselves with a postal blood-letting kit	
Outcomes	The primary outcome measure was A1C, measured using capillary blood obtained with self-administered BIOSAFE kits Secondary outcomes: Health-related distress was measured by the health distress scale The activity limitations scale, which measures the impact of disease on role activities such as recreation and chores Depression was measured by the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)-9 A physical activities scale measured total minutes per week of aerobic exercise Tertiary outcomes: Tertiary measures included the 13- item short-form Patient Activation Measure (PAM) and diabetes self-efficacy	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	Language: English Funding: The study was supported by National Institutes of Health Grant 1R18DK065729 and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant 096223 Publication status: Peer reviewed journal	
Stated aim of study	“We hypothesized that participants in the IDSMP, compared with usual-care control subjects, would demonstrate 1) reduced A1C at 6 and 18 months, 2) have fewer symptoms, 3) have increased exercise, and 4) have improved self-efficacy and patient activation. We also hypothesized that participants randomised to a follow-up list serve, peer-support group would have better 18-month outcomes than participants receiving no follow-up”	
Notes	Further information required: details of allocation concealment. Contacted author, no response	
<i>Risk of bias</i>		
Bias	Authors’ judgement	Support for judgement

Lorig 2010 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random numbers table.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	It would not be possible to blind participants in this study design. Collection of data was self-reported so blinding of “assessors” was not necessary; however patients were not blinded and were responsible for data collection so the risk of bias cannot be described as low
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	“When intent-to-treat analyses were used, PAM and self-efficacy remained significant, while the P value for A1C increased to 0.060” Comment: Intention-to-treat analysis used. Follow-up rates: Intervention: 395/491 = 80%. Control: 238/270 = 88%
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Quinn 2008

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: The study enrolled patients 18-70 years old who had a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes for at least 6 months. Study patients were required to have an A1c 7.5% and to have been on a stable diabetes therapeutic regimen for 3 months prior to study enrolment Exclusion criteria: None stated
Interventions	Number of centres: 3 Country: USA Setting: One community endocrinology and two community primary care practices
Outcomes	Summary of Diabetes Self-Care Activities (SDSCA) questionnaire and HbA1c
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Study was supported by LifeScan, Inc. and Nokia, Inc. Publication status: Peer reviewed journal

Quinn 2008 (Continued)

Stated aim of study	The primary study aim was to assess the impact on A1c of a cell phone-based diabetes management software system used with web-based data analytics and therapy optimisation tools. Secondary aims examined healthcare provider (HCP) adherence to prescribing guidelines and assessed HCPs' adoption of the technology	
Notes	Further information needed: details of sequence generation and allocation concealment. Contacted author, no response	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"Eligible patients gave consent and were randomised to either the control or intervention group" Comment: Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	"This study was a non blinded, randomised controlled trial (RCT)"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	"Characteristics for drop-out subjects were not different from the remaining study subjects" Comment: No details given about reasons for dropping out of study. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement Follow-up rates: Intervention: 13/15 = 87%. Control: 13/15 = 87%
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Unclear risk	"A convenience sample of 30 patients with type 2 diabetes was recruited" Comment: Small convenience sample - insufficient detail about local population to determine the consequences of this Control group was expected to be quite pro-active: "They were asked to fax or call in their BG logbooks every 2 weeks to their HCPs until their BG levels were stabilized in the target ranges or until their HCPs changed testing frequency"

Quinn 2011

Methods	Study design: cluster-randomised controlled trial
Participants	<p>Inclusion criteria: Physician diagnosis of type 2 diabetes for ≥ 6 months; Glycated haemoglobin $\geq 7.5\%$ within 3 months; Age 18-64 years.</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries; Uninsured; Insulin pump users; Not currently managed by study physicians; Pregnant; Active substance, alcohol, or drug abuser (sober <1 year); Psychotic or schizophrenic under active care; Severe hearing or visual impairment; or No Internet or e-mail access.</p>
Interventions	<p>Number of centres: 26 primary care physicians enrolled and randomised Country: USA Setting: General practice physicians (internal medicine, family medicine) were recruited from four areas in Maryland, including urban, suburban and rural practices. Physicians in academic settings were not included</p>
Outcomes	<p>The primary outcome of the study was change in glycated haemoglobin (%) comparing UC and maximal treatment (CPDS) at baseline versus 12 months</p> <p>Secondary outcomes were: The Patient Health Questionnaire-9 scores at baseline and at follow-up interviews to assess depressive symptoms The 9-item version of the Self-Completion Patient Outcome Instrument to assess patient-reported symptoms associated with diabetes The 17-item Diabetes Distress Scale. Clinical measurement related to diabetes complications (blood pressure, lipid levels) Hypoglycemic events, hospitalisations, and emergency room visits</p>
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	<p>Language: English Funding: This study was funded through a contract between the University of Maryland Baltimore and WellDoc in addition to contributions by WellDoc, CareFirst Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Maryland, LifeScan, and Sprint. Additional funding was provided by the Maryland Industrial Partnerships program through the University of Maryland, an initiative of the A. James Clark School of Engineering's Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute Publication status: Peer reviewed journal</p>
Stated aim of study	To test whether adding mobile application coaching and patient/provider web portals to community primary care compared with standard diabetes management would reduce glycated haemoglobin levels in patients with type 2 diabetes

Notes	Diabetes Distress scale scores seem too low to be on the full scale - are these from a sub scale? Contacted author, no response	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	“We randomised at the physician practice level in order to prevent potential contamination of the study intervention, i.e., all participating physicians at a practice site were randomised to the same study group. When a physician practice is contacted, agreement of individual physicians within the practice is sought, and they are added to the study physician group” Comment: Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Patients and providers were not blinded.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Sensitivity analysis using weighted estimating equations (WEE) to address any residual bias from missing data was done. However the dropout rate in the intervention group was high (15/38 = 39%). Dropout rate in control group was 10%
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol for the trial published prior to study completion.
Other bias	Unclear risk	The exclusion criteria meant that only patients with private insurance and access to the Internet/ email took part in the trial. The characteristics of such patients might have influenced the efficacy of the intervention and its generalisability

Smith 2000

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Women who participated in the Women to Women Diabetes Project had to meet the following study inclusion criteria: have diabetes (type 1 or 2), be between the ages of 35 and 60 years, be able to read and write English, and possess the sight and dexterity to use a computer (but not necessarily be computer literate). In addition, participants were required to have a telephone in their homes and live at least 25 miles outside the 6 major cities of Montana Exclusion criteria: None stated
Interventions	Number of centres: n/a Country: USA Setting: From home
Outcomes	Over the telephone: change in health status scale, a sources of support scale and self-reported HbA1c Mail questionnaires for Personal Resource Questionnaire, Quality of Life index, Social Readjustment Rating Scale and the Psychosocial Adaptation to Illness Scale
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Financial support for this research was provided by the American Association of Diabetes Educators Foundation and US West Publication status: Peer reviewed journal
Stated aim of study	The aims were to (1) test the effects of the computer intervention in providing support, information and education on selected outcomes, and (2) evaluate the women's attitudes toward and satisfaction with the intervention and the support provided
Notes	Further information needed: Method of sequence generation and allocation concealment. Number of participants completing the study. QOL etc scores after adjustment and any statistics on whether differences were significant or not. Unable to contact author

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"The 30 women were randomised into two groups (computer vs non computer) of 15 each" Comment: Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No details provided. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement

Smith 2000 (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of participants was not possible. No details about blinding of assessors
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement. Unclear reporting of numbers included in the trial
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Small sample size.

Wise 1986

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Patients regularly attending the diabetic clinic who were seen over a 2 month period at Charing Cross Hospital in London. Diagnosis of type 1/2 diabetes for at least 2 years
Interventions	Number of centres: 1 Country: UK Setting: Diabetic clinic at Charing Cross Hospital, London
Outcomes	Knowledge status measured by knowledge-assessment program and HbA1c
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Supported by the British Diabetic Association and the Northe West Thames Regional Research Committee Publication status: Peer reviewed journal
Stated aim of study	The purpose of our study was to examine separately two programs recently developed in this department to define any effects on knowledge and diabetic control
Notes	Details of allocation concealment and SD of outcome measures if available. Unable to find current contact details for author

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	High risk	"Assignment to test groups was randomised by year and month of birth"

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement: no details of allocation concealment provided
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Control group “unaware of the study” and no details about blinding of assessors - study design makes it likely that assessors were aware of allocation
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement: details of number of patients recruited at the start not reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Yoo 2009

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: between 30 and 70 years of age, who met the following criteria: (i) a diagnosis of both type 2 diabetes and hypertension at least 1 year previously by a physician; (ii) HbA1c 6.5%-10.0%; (iii) blood pressure > 130/80 mmHg; and (iv) BMI \geq 23.0 kg m ² (overweight according to Asia-Pacific criteria) Exclusion criteria: i) severe diabetic complications (e.g. diabetic foot or severe diabetic retinopathy); (ii) liver dysfunction with aspartate aminotransferase or alanine aminotransferase > 2.5 times the reference level, or renal dysfunction (serum creatinine > 132 micro mol/L); (iii) medical history of congestive heart failure, angina pectoris, MI, or stroke based on a physician’s diagnosis; (iv) pregnancy or lactation; or (v) other medical problems that could affect study results or trial participation or (vi) excluded all participants with hsCRP \geq 15.0 mg to rule out any occult inflammatory or infectious disorders
Interventions	Number of centres: 2 Country: South Korea Setting: 1. University hospital setting (Korea University) 2. Community healthcare centre (Guro-Gu Public Health Centre)
Outcomes	BMI was calculated as weight / height ² (kg m ²). Blood chemistry was analysed at the Korea University Guro Hospital laboratory (Seoul, Korea). The glucose oxidase method was employed to measure plasma glucose. A human insulin-specific radioimmunoassay kit (Linco Research Inc., St Charles, MO, USA) was used to measure insulin levels, with a coefficient of variation (CV) of 2.2%. This kit had a cross reactivity of < 0.2% with human proinsulin. Insulin resistance was calculated by the homeostasis model assessment. Serum total cholesterol, triglycerides, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol were determined by enzymatic methods using a chemical analyser (Hitachi 747, Tokyo, Japan). HbA1c was analysed by high-performance liquid chromatography using a Variant II analyser (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA). Plasma adiponectin levels were measured

	using an adiponectin enzyme immunoassay kit (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals, Belmont, CA, USA), with a CV of 3.2%. Plasma IL-6 levels were measured using a Quantikine kit (R&D Systems, Belmont, CA, USA) with a CV of 8.1%. Plasma high-sensitivity (hs) CRP levels were measured using a hsCRP kit (Immunodiagno, Bensheim, Germany) with a CV of 9.2%
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Seoul R & BD Project. The development of the HSA business model and technology was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy Publication status: Peer reviewed journal
Stated aim of study	Our goal was to examine whether a Ubiquitous Chronic Disease Care (UCDC) system using both the Internet and cellular phones could facilitate chronic disease self-management and improve multiple metabolic parameters in overweight patients with both type 2 diabetes and hypertension better than conventional health care in out-patient clinics
Notes	Further information needed: clarify data for BPs - need clarification re. inconsistencies between tables and text re HbA1C, Full details of randomisation needed. Contacted author, no response

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"We recruited patients for this open-label, randomised, controlled, prospective study from both a university hospital setting" Comment: No details provided of randomisations procedures. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No details provided about allocation concealment. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	"Open-label" study.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	"Five patients (8.1%) dropped out of the intervention group and seven (10%) out of the control group. The characteristics of patients who did and did not drop out were similar in both the intervention and control groups" Comment: No details provided about reasons for patients dropping out. No impu-

Yoo 2009 (Continued)

		tation of data or intention-to-treat analysis reported. Insufficient evidence to permit judgement
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

Zhou 2003

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised controlled trial	
Participants	<p>Inclusion criteria: Selection criteria: diagnosed according to WHO diagnostic criteria 1985, age over 35 years, previously received glucose lowering medication, and the dosage of medication remained constant at least two weeks prior to the selection</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Diabetes with other severe or acute complications and those with other endocrine disorders, hypertension (diagnosed according to WHO/ISH Hypertension guidelines), hypercholesterolaemia (principles for prevention of dyslipidaemia) and glomerular disease (diagnosed according to Morgenson diagnostic criteria)</p>	
Interventions	<p>Number of centres: 1</p> <p>Country: China</p> <p>Setting: Endocrinology Department in Second Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University</p>	
Outcomes	HbA1c, BMI, fasting blood glucose, 2-hour post prandial glucose, lipids, urinary albumin excretion	
Study details	Not terminated before regular end	
Publication details	<p>Language: Chinese</p> <p>Funding: Not stated</p> <p>Publication status: Peer reviewed journal</p>	
Stated aim of study	We developed 'Diabetes diet advisor V1.0 (PC-DR Vision 1.0)'. It consists of more than 20 thousand common food types of Chinese people. The objective of this research is to evaluate the efficacy of this software in clinical uses	
Notes	Further information required: details of allocation concealment and sequence generation. Unable to find current contact details for author	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement

Zhou 2003 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	“150 patients are randomly allocated to two groups” Comment: Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Insufficient evidence in article. However study design makes blinding highly unlikely
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No missing data.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient evidence to permit judgement.
Other bias	Low risk	Nothing detected

ADA: American Diabetes Association
 BMI: body mass index
 BP: blood pressure
 hsCRP: high-sensitivity C-reactive protein
 MI: myocardial infarction
 PVD: peripheral vascular disease
 SD: standard deviation

Characteristics of excluded studies [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
Adams 2009	The intervention was non-interactive and consisted of tailored reports that were mailed to participants prior to visits. The only interaction with participants was a telephone-based pre-visit questionnaire based on ADA guidelines. Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Albisser 1996	Not interactive. Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Avdal 2011	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine (nurse-led case management) intervention
Billiard 1991	Participants had type 1 diabetes only.
Boaz 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine intervention

(Continued)

Bond 2007	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine intervention
Bond 2010	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Intervention was felt to be a nurse-led telemedicine intervention more than a computer-based self-management intervention
Bujnowska-Fedak 2011	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine intervention
Carter 2011	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine intervention
Castelnuovo 2010	This report described a protocol for telemedicine intervention
Cho 2006	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine intervention
Cho 2009	Comparison between a mobile phone and Internet-based intervention. No control group
Cleveringa 2007	The intervention (Diabetes Care Protocol) was targeted at health professionals. Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Derose 2009	The intervention was non-interactive and consisted of automated prompts with telephone calls and letters
Earle 2010	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for telemedicine intervention
Edmonds 1998	Was a feasibility study with no suitable outcome measures. Participants were “insulin-requiring diabetics”
Estrada 2010	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. The intervention was aimed at healthcare professionals
Glasgow 1995	This report describes a feasibility study not suitable for inclusion
Glasgow 2000	2x2 factorial trial where all participants received a brief computer intervention. This study looked at the incremental effects of adding telephone follow-up support and community resources
Glasgow 2002	All participants received a computer-based intervention.
Glasgow 2005a	Brief report of the findings of the Diabetes Priority Program
Goldberg 2006	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (nurse-led) telemedicine intervention
Graziano 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. The intervention was not interactive and did not provide tailored information

(Continued)

Handley 2008	The intervention was a non-interactive telephone intervention with nurse care management. Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Harno 2006	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for an Internet-based telemedicine intervention
Holbrook 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Shared electronic decision-support system. The intervention was a colour-coded diabetes tracker providing sequential monitoring values for 13 diabetes risk factors and the primary outcome measure was a process composite score
Izquierdo 2010	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted with our criteria for an Internet-based telemedicine intervention
Jones 2006	Non-randomised controlled trial.
Kalten 2000	The report described the intervention but provided no results. The intervention required motivational interviewing to be provided by healthcare professionals, it did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Keuthage 2008	Commentary on another article (Christian 2008).
Kim 2005	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (mobile phone-based) telemedicine intervention
Kim 2006	Targeted at healthcare professionals, did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Kim 2007	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (mobile phone-based) telemedicine intervention
Kim 2007a	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (mobile phone-based) telemedicine intervention
Kim 2008	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (mobile phone-based) telemedicine intervention
Kim 2010	All patients were started on glargine. The intervention looked at the effect of SMS messages on titration of insulin
King 2006	The primary outcome measures included community health activities model program for seniors questionnaire, diet and psychosocial assessments. HbA1c or quality of life were not included as outcomes
Kwon 2004	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (mobile phone-based) telemedicine intervention
Laffel 2007	Over 70% patients with type 1 diabetes.
Lee 2007	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. The intervention was not interactive and it was managed by a health professional

(Continued)

Liebreich 2009	The primary outcome measures included measured physical activity, social cognitive variables. HbA1c or quality of life were not included as outcomes
MacLean 2004	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. The intervention was decision support software and it was aimed at health professionals
McMahon 2005	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (nurse-led) telemedicine intervention
Mollon 2008	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. The intervention was an automated telephone reminder. This report was also just a feasibility study with no clinical outcome measures
Morrish 1989	Participants had type 1 diabetes.
Noel 2004	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Oh 2003	Purely telephone-based intervention, not computer-based.
Palmas 2010	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Persson 2000	Not a randomised controlled trial.
Peters 1991	Participants had type 1 diabetes.
Piette 2000	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Non-interactive automated calls and telephone follow-up from a nurse
Piette 2001	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Non-interactive automated calls and telephone follow-up from a nurse
Quinn 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. The intervention was a diabetes communication system, using mobile phones and patient/physician portals to allow patient-specific treatment and communication
Ralston 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (care-manager led) telemedicine intervention
Robertson 2007	Not a randomised controlled trial.
Rodríguez-Idígoras 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (call-centre protocol managed) telemedicine intervention
Ross 2006	The only outcomes measured were characteristics of and usage by patients
Ryff-de 1992	Participants had type 1 diabetes.

(Continued)

Sarkar 2008	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. A non-interactive telephone intervention
Schillinger 2009	Automated telephone messages or nurse telephone intervention. Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention
Schrezenmeier 1988	Participants had type 1 diabetes.
Shea 2006	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Shea 2007	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Shea 2009	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Sherifali 2011	Not an interactive intervention. Intervention was a mail out of a tailored letter. Did not fit our criteria for a self-management intervention
Shultz 1991	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Modem data transfer to clinicians only
Smith 2004	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (nurse case management) telemedicine intervention
Song 2009	Not a randomised controlled trial.
Stone 2010	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Tildesley 2011	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Tjam 2006	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (Internet-based) telemedicine intervention
Trief 2007	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Tsang 2001	Participants had type 1 diabetes.
Turnin 1992	70% of participants had type 1 diabetes.
van Bastelaar 2011	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention as not fully automated and significant interaction with health professionals
van Bastelaar 2011a	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention as not fully automated and significant interaction with health professionals

(Continued)

Vespasiani 2008	Participants had type 1 diabetes.
Wakefield 2011	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a telemedicine intervention
Yeh 2006	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Aimed at health professionals, not an interactive patient focused intervention
Yoo 2008	The study compared 2 types of blood glucose monitoring.
Yoon 2008	Did not match our criteria for a self-management intervention. Fitted more with our criteria for a (mobile phone) telemedicine intervention

ADA: American Diabetes Association

Characteristics of studies awaiting assessment [ordered by study ID]

Faridi 2008

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised control trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Patients meeting the following inclusion criteria were included in the study: (i) age \geq 18 years; (ii) type 2 diabetes diagnosed by a health professional at least 1 year prior and confirmed by other clinical laboratory data (Fasting Plasma Glucose $>$ 126 mg/dL and/or 2-hour 75-g oral glucose tolerance test OGTT $>$ 200 mg/dL); (iii) controlled by either diet or oral medications for at least 3 months; (iv) BMI $>$ 25; (v) no exogenous insulin use; (vi) a glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c) $<$ 8% reflecting fair to good glycaemic control; and (vi) serum creatinine $<$ 1.5 mg/dL. Exclusion criteria: None stated.
Interventions	Number of centres: 2 The study was conducted in collaboration with a primary care network in Connecticut (Community Health Centers - CHC). Two of the seven CHC clinics with similar demographic characteristics in the network elected to participate Country: US. Setting: community and at home.
Outcomes	1) Feasibility was assessed as utilisation of the system by community health centre patients and consistent use of the system by patients over the 3-month intervention period. Utilisation was measured in the intervention group by mining the data collected by the NICHE server to obtain information about the utilisation of separate components. Additionally, post-intervention focus groups were held with intervention patients to illuminate patients' barriers when utilising the technology.

Faridi 2008 (Continued)

	2) Utility in enhancing diabetes management: assessed as pre- and post-intervention change in clinical measures and surveys relevant to diabetic self-care in the intervention and control group. Clinical measures included HbA1c levels, trend analysis of glucometer readings between groups, and BMI. Additionally, physical activity levels were measured both by pedometers and self-report using the Yale Physical Activity Scale (YPAS). Patients' self-efficacy was assessed as via the Diabetes Self-efficacy Scale (DSES). Participants' diabetes management was recorded using the Diabetes Self-care Activities (SDSCA)
Study details	Not terminated before regular end.
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Small Business Technology Transfer Research Program, grant number IR21DKK072321-01 Publication status: Peer reviewed journal
Stated aim of study	"The primary aim of the study is to examine the feasibility of utilizing this technology to assist with diabetes self care in a clinic population as well as its impact on clinical outcomes"
Notes	Pilot study in preparation for a phase II trial. Unable to contact author

Lorig 2006

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised control trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Participants met all of the following criteria: 1) at least 18 years of age; 2) a physician's diagnosis of heart disease, chronic lung disease or type 2 diabetes; 3) in addition to one of these diagnoses, participant could have other chronic conditions but could not have been in active treatment of cancer for 1 year; 4) not participated in the small-group Chronic Disease Self-Management Program; 5) access to a computer with Internet and email capabilities; 6) agreed to 1-2 hours per week of log on time spread over at least 3 sessions/wk for 6 weeks; 7) are able to complete the online questionnaire. Exclusion criteria: None separately stated.
Interventions	Number of centres: 1 Country: US Setting: Participants used the Internet from home
Outcomes	There were 7 health-related quality of life measures or health indicators. Visual numeric scales (VNS) were used to measure pain/physical discomfort, shortness of breath, and fatigue. The Illness Intrusiveness Scale measured the impact of disease on role activities such as work, recreation, and social activities The Health Distress Scale was adapted from the Medical Outcome Study Self-Rated Global Health was used as it is predictive of future health status The 20-item Health Assessment Instrument measures disability. Four health-related behaviours were measured: stretching and strengthening exercise, aerobic exercise, use of cognitive symptom management techniques, and use of techniques to improve communication with healthcare

Lorig 2006 (Continued)

	providers
Study details	Not terminated before regular end.
Publication details	Language: English Funding: Not stated Publication status: Peer reviewed journal
Stated aim of study	To determine the efficacy of the Internet-based CDSMP
Notes	Need diabetes specific data - contacted author. Diabetes data not available separately and mixed diabetic population. Would require re-analysis of data

Noh 2010

Methods	Study design: parallel randomised control trial
Participants	Inclusion criteria: Patients 18- 80 years old with type 2 diabetes either drug naive or who had received prior drug therapy and had a glycated haemoglobin (A1C) level between 7% and 10% with stable glycaemic control were recruited. Stable glycaemic control was defined by no recent addition of hypoglycaemic medications or change in insulin dosing by >10% in the previous 3 months. Persons participating in this study had Internet access in their homes, their own cellular phone, and the ability to access the Internet and mobile website Exclusion criteria: Participants with severe medical illnesses including liver cirrhosis, end stage renal disease, and cancer were excluded
Interventions	Number of centres: 5 hospitals Country: South Korea Setting: Mobile and Internet-based intervention, patients recruited from hospital
Outcomes	Primary end points for the study were the changes in glycaemic control (A1C, fasting plasma glucose [FPG], and 2-h postprandial plasma [PP2] glucose)
Study details	Not terminated before regular end
Publication details	Language: English Funding: This research was supported by a grant from the Korean Diabetes Association Publication status: Peer reviewed journal
Stated aim of study	The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of this computer- and cellular phone accessible web-based system on glycaemic control
Notes	Need more details about intervention. Contacted author, no response

BMI: body mass index

OGTT: oral glucose tolerance test

DATA AND ANALYSES

Comparison 1. HbA1c

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 HbA1c	11	2637	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.21 [-0.37, -0.05]
1.1 Change in mean	3	943	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.06 [-0.27, 0.39]
1.2 Mean difference	8	1694	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.32 [-0.52, -0.12]
2 Sensitivity analysis - removing Christian 2008	10	2364	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.25 [-0.40, -0.10]
3 Sensitivity analysis - removing Leu 2005	10	2600	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.23 [-0.39, -0.07]
4 Sensitivity analysis - removing cluster randomised trials	9	2005	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.22 [-0.39, -0.05]
5 Sensitivity analysis - remove Glasgow 2003	10	2477	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.21 [-0.38, -0.04]
6 Subgroup analysis - outcomes at less than 6 months	5	842	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.32 [-0.58, -0.07]
7 Subgroup analysis - outcomes at later than 6months	6	1795	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.14 [-0.33, 0.05]
8 Subgroup analysis - mobile phone based interventions	3	280	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.50 [-0.74, -0.26]
9 Subgroup analysis - interventions based at home	4	1188	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.25 [-0.47, -0.04]

Comparison 2. Dietary change

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Fruit and vegetable screener score	1	299	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.60 [-0.35, 1.55]
2 Estimated daily fat intake	2	544	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-3.44 [-7.93, 1.05]
3 Change in calorific intake	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
4 Pooled effect on diet	3	819	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.29 [-0.43, -0.15]
4.1 Estimated daily fat intake	2	546	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.32 [-0.49, -0.16]
4.2 Change in weekly calorie intake	1	273	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.23 [-0.46, 0.01]

Comparison 3. Impact on weight or BMI

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Pooled effect on weight or BMI	5		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 Weight	3	507	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.05 [-0.22, 0.13]
1.2 Change in weight	1	273	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.14 [-0.38, 0.09]
1.3 BMI	1	245	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.06 [-0.31, 0.19]

Comparison 4. Lipids

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Total cholesterol	4	567	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.19 [-0.41, 0.02]
2 Change in total cholesterol	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
3 High density lipoprotein (HDL)	2	446	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.01 [-0.08, 0.05]
4 Change in HDL	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5 Low density lipoprotein (LDL)	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6 Change in LDL	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
7 TC:HDL ratio	3	1466	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.05 [-0.07, 0.16]
8 Change in triglycerides	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
9 Pooled effect on cholesterol	7	1625	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.28, 0.05]
9.1 Total cholesterol	4	567	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.22 [-0.48, 0.04]
9.2 Change in total cholesterol	1	273	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.27 [-0.50, -0.03]
9.3 Total cholesterol:HDL cholesterol ratio	2	785	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.06 [-0.08, 0.20]

ADDITIONAL TABLES

Table 1. Taxonomy of behaviour change techniques

Behaviour change techniques
1 Provide information on consequences of behaviour in general
2 Provide information on consequences of behaviour to the individual
3 Provide information about others' approval
4 Provide normative information about others' behaviour
5 Goal setting (behaviour)

Table 1. Taxonomy of behaviour change techniques (Continued)

6 Goal setting (outcome)
7 Action planning
8 Barrier identification/problem solving
9 Set graded tasks
10 Prompt review of behavioural goals
11 Prompt review of outcome goals
12 Provide rewards contingent on effort or progress towards behaviour
13 Provide rewards contingent on successful behaviour
14 Shaping
15 Prompt generalisation of target behaviour
16 Prompt self-monitoring of behaviour
17 Prompt self-monitoring of behavioural outcome
18 Prompt focus on past success
19 Provide feedback on performance
20 Provide information on where and when to perform the behaviour
21 Provide instruction on how to perform the behaviour
22 Model or demonstrate the behaviour
23 Teach to use prompts / cues
24 Environmental restructuring
25 Agree on behavioural contract
26 Prompt practice
27 Use follow-up prompts
28 Facilitate social comparison

Table 1. Taxonomy of behaviour change techniques (Continued)

29 Plan social support / social change
30 Prompt identification as a role model/position advocate
31 Prompt anticipated regret
32 Fear arousal
33 Prompt self-talk
34 Prompt use of imagery
35 Relapse prevention / coping planning
36 Stress management
37 Emotional control training
38 Motivational interviewing
39 Time management
40 General communication skills training
41 Stimulate anticipation of future rewards

Table 2. Overview of study populations

Characteristic Study ID	Intervention(s) and control(s)	[N] Screened	[N] Randomised	[N] ITT	[N] Finishing study	[%] Randomised finishing study
Christian 2008	I: computer expert system C: printed information at baseline then usual care	T: 322	I: 155 C: 155 T: 310	-	I: 141 C: 132 T: 273	I: 91 C: 85 T: 88
Glasgow 1997	I: computerised touchscreen assessment C: touch screen assessment at baseline then usual care	-	I: 108 C: 98 T: 206	No ITT analysis done	I: - C: - T: 161	I: - C: - T: 78

Table 2. Overview of study populations (Continued)

Glasgow 2003^a	I: D-NET Peer support C: access to articles about diabetes	-	I: 80 C: 80 T: 160	No ITT analysis done	-	-
Glasgow 2005^b	I: DPP C: touch screen assessment at baseline then usual care	T: 1187	I: 469 C: 417 T: 886	No ITT analysis done	I: 379 C: 354 T: 733	I: 81 C: 85 T: 83
Glasgow 2006	I: TSM C: enhanced usual care - generic health risk appraisal then usual care	T: 2662	I: 174 C: 161 T: 335	-	I: 147 C: 152 T: 302	I: 84 C: 94 T: 90
Glasgow 2010^c	I: CASM C: enhanced usual care - generic health risk appraisal then usual care	T: 544	I: 169 C: 132 T: 301	-	I: 130 C: 115 T: 245	I: 77 C: 87 T: 81
Leu 2005	I: automated wireless messaging system C: presumed usual care	T: 50	I: 25 C: 25 T: 50	No ITT analysis done	I: 21 C: 21 T: 42	I: 82 C: 82 T: 82
Lim 2011	I: U-healthcare C: baseline face-to-face education followed by usual care	T: 180	I: 51 C: 52 T: 103	No ITT analysis done	I: 49 C: 48 T: 97	I: 96 C: 92 T: 94
Lo 1996	I: CAL C: group diabetes education sessions	-	I: 12 C: 20 T: 32	No ITT analysis done	I: 12 C: 16 T: 28	I: 100 C: 80 T: 88
Lorig 2010	I: IDSMP C: usual care	T: 1019	I: 491 C: 270 T: 761	-	I: 395 C: 238 T: 633	I: 80 C: 88 T: 83

Table 2. Overview of study populations (Continued)

Quinn 2008	I: WellDoc C: provided blood glucose meters and encouraged participants to fax their results to their healthcare providers every two weeks until blood glucose was stabilised	-	I: 15 C: 15 T: 30	No ITT analysis done	I: 13 C: 13 T: 26	I: 87 C: 87 T: 87
Quinn 2011	I: group 2 coach only C: usual care	T: 2602	I: 38 C: 63 T: 101	-	I: 23 C: 56 T: 79	I: 61 C: 90 T: 78
Smith^d 2000	I: Firstclass software C: hard copies of materials	T: 50	I: 15 C: 15 T: 30	No ITT analysis done	-	I: 100 C: 100 T: 100
Wise 1986^e	I: ICT +KAP (IV) C: presumed usual care	-	-	No ITT analysis done	I: 21 C: 21 T: 42	I: 21 C: 21 T: 42
Yoo 2009	I: UCDC C: usual care	-	I: 62 C: 61 T: 123	No ITT analysis done	I: 57 C: 54 T: 111	I: 92 C: 86 T: 90
Zhou 2003	I: Diabetes diet advisor V1.0 C: fixed carbohydrate content	-	I: 88 C: 62 T: 150	-	I: 88 C: 62 T: 150	I: 100 C: 100 T: 100
Total^f	All interventions		1952		1476	
	All controls		1626		1282	
	All interventions and controls		3578		2922	

“-” denotes not reported

Where provided, data for analysis has used numbers provided for the specific outcomes. Where these data were not available, numbers in each group have been extracted from CONSORT diagrams or the text of the reports.

^a Final numbers for each group were not included in study report. The numbers used in the analysis assumed equal allocation amongst experimental groups and made no allowance for attrition. As this would overpower the study in the meta-analysis, a sensitivity analysis was done removing this study - this had no significant impact on the results.

^b The numbers for the final outcome data did not match the numbers completing the trial. The numbers for control and intervention groups were not provided, only a total n for number total cases providing outcome data. Numbers in each group were estimated as a proportion of the total cases using the ratio I : C = 379 : 354, e.g. for HbA1c total n = 560, n for the intervention group = $(379/733)*560 = 290$.

^c The numbers for the final outcome data did not match the numbers completing the trial. The numbers for control and intervention groups were not provided, only a total n for number total cases providing outcome data. Numbers in each group were based on the CONSORT diagram as there were three groups - CASM, control and CASM+ and trying to estimate the numbers in each group based on the data provided was not feasible.

^d The number of participants completing the study was not reported.

^e Only 2/147 people dropped out of the whole study.

^f Requested data from Glasgow 1997/2003; Smith 2000 and Wise 1986 but no response to queries.

C: control; I: intervention; ITT: intention-to-treat; T: total

CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

Kingshuk Pal (KP): protocol development, abstract screening, paper screening, data extraction, checking data extraction, and writing draft paper

Sophie Eastwood (SE): abstract screening, paper screening, data extraction, checking data extraction, reviewing drafts and the final manuscript

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Elizabeth Murray (EM): commenting on drafts, checking data extraction, contributing to decisions in steering group meetings on study inclusion and analysis of data, and reviewing the final manuscript

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None known.

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROTOCOL AND REVIEW

During the protocol stage there was some initial discussions regarding studies with mixed populations of type 1 and type 2 diabetes. As no decision had been reached at the protocol stage, the protocol stated all studies with mixed populations would be included. A final decision was reached in the steering group after the protocol was published and it was decided that studies where a majority (i.e. greater than 50%) of participants had type 2 diabetes would be included. It was felt that populations of people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes are quite different and interventions for the two should not be combined if at all possible. Where not possible, it was decided that choosing studies with cut offs of either 60%,70%, 80% or 90% of participants who had type 2 diabetes would be arbitrary so a simpler criteria of including studies where the majority of patients had type 2 diabetes was felt to be a simple and practical solution that would not bias the review process. Only two studies were excluded due to mixed populations ([Laffel 2007](#); [Turnin 1992](#)) and both of these had 70% or more participants with type 1 diabetes.

When looking at different settings, the distinction between primary care, outpatient or community setting could not be meaningfully applied to self-management interventions. It was more meaningful to divide the interventions settings into clinic-based (touch screen or other clinic computer), home computer-based and mobile phone interventions. This was used as a basis for a subgroup analysis.

INDEX TERMS

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

*Internet; Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2 [blood; *therapy]; Health Status; Hemoglobin A, Glycosylated [metabolism]; Quality of Life; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic; Self Care [*methods]; Therapy, Computer-Assisted [*methods]

MeSH check words

Adult; Aged; Humans; Middle Aged