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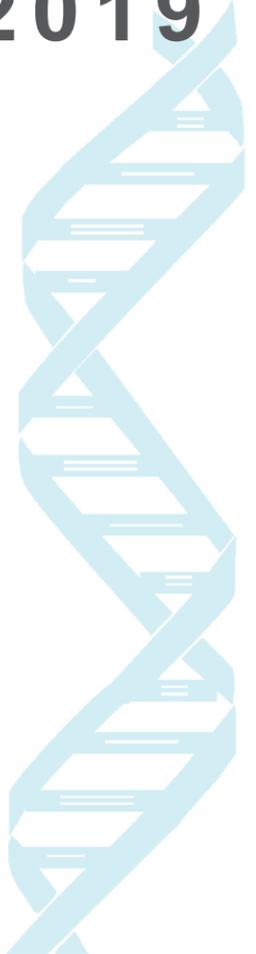
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Evaluation of Journal Registration Policies and Prospective Registration of Randomized Clinical Trials of Nonregulated Health Care Interventions

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Despite the important role of non-regulated interventions in healthcare, little is known about the degree to which journals from healthcare specialties that deliver these interventions have implemented and enforce prospective trial registration policies. This study examined whether journals in the behavioral sciences or psychology, nursing, nutrition and dietetics, rehabilitation, and surgery that publish non-regulated healthcare intervention trials require prospective trial registration and whether prospective registration policies are associated with publication of prospectively registered trials, publication of trials with adequately registered outcomes, and publication of trials with primary outcomes consistent with registered primary outcomes.

Only 11% of 254 included journals required prospective registration for all trials. Of 953 included trials, only 20% (189/953) were registered prospectively, including 34% (33/98) in journals with prospective registration policies versus 18% (156/855) in journals without policies ($p = 0.004$). There were no journals that published at least 2 trials where $> 50\%$ of trials were registered prospectively. Only 3% of trials in journals with policies and 4% in journals without policies published primary outcomes consistent with prospectively, adequately registered outcomes ($p = 0.620$). Few journals from specialty areas that deliver non-regulated healthcare interventions require prospective trial registration, and existing policies are rarely enforced. Alternative strategies for encouraging prospective registration of non-regulated intervention trials should be developed and tested.

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