

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 2

Additional information on the ICCs

After requesting additional information on the actually obtained ICCs in order to compare them to those assumed in the sample size calculation, we had both values for 7, or one third of the studies. Two of those were studies that showed no significant treatment effect, while two showed a “partial effect” and three showed a significant treatment effect on all of their respective primary outcomes (which explains the 100% availability of ICC pairs for this particular subgroup). Altogether, 9 assumed and actual ICC pairs for various patient-relevant primary endpoints were available for these 7 publications. In half of the pairs, the assumed ICCs were smaller than actually obtained ICCs (see Table 1)

Table 1: Number of expected and achieved intra-cluster correlation coefficients

Author	Primary patient-relevant outcome	ICC - expected	ICC - achieved
Kennedy 2013¹	Generic health-related quality of life	0.05	0.031
Steventon 2012	Proportion of people admitted to hospital within the 12 month trial period	0.001	0.017
Gensichen 2009¹	Depression symptoms	0.1	0.061
Griffiths 2013	Percentage of participants attending for unscheduled asthma care	0.05	-0.0056
Murphy 2009	Changes in physical health status	0.001	0.076
Murphy 2009	Changes in mental health status	0.001	0.054
Murphy 2009	Admissions to hospital	0.006	0.017
Metzelthin 2013¹	Disability	0.05	0.4
Elley 2003¹	Vitality	0.05	0.01

¹ data obtained from authors