



Published in final edited form as:

*Am J Prev Med.* 2010 October ; 39(4): 334–344. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2010.05.020.

## Finding the Minimal Intervention Needed for Sustained Mammography Adherence

Jennifer M. Gierisch, PhD, MPH, Jessica T. DeFrank, MPH, J. Michael Bowling, PhD, Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH, Jeanine M. Matuszewski, BS, David Farrell, MPH, and Celette Sugg Skinner, PhD

Duke University Medical Center, Division of General Internal Medicine (Gierisch); Durham VAMC, Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care (Gierisch); People Designs, Inc. (Farrell), Durham; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health (DeFrank, Bowling, Rimer, Matuszewski) and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center (Rimer), Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Division of Behavioral and Communication Sciences and Harold C Simmons Cancer Center (Skinner), Dallas, Texas

### Abstract

**Background**—Regular adherence to mammography screening saves lives yet few women receive regular mammograms.

**Design**—RCT.

**Setting/participants**—Participants were recruited through a state employee health plan. All were women aged 40–75 years and had recent mammograms prior to enrollment ( $n=3,547$ ). Data were collected from 2004 to 2009.

**Intervention**—The efficacy was tested of a two-step adaptively designed intervention to increase mammography adherence over 4 years. The first intervention step consisted of three reminder types: enhanced usual care reminders (EUCR), enhanced letter reminders (ELR), both delivered by mail, and automated telephone reminders (ATR). After delivery of reminders, women who became off-schedule in any of the 4 years received a second step of supplemental interventions. Three supplemental intervention arms contained priming letters and telephone counseling: barriers only (BarriCall), barriers plus positive consequences of getting mammograms (BarriConCall+), and barriers plus negative consequences of not getting mammograms (BarriConCall–).

**Main outcome measures**—Average cumulative number of days non-adherent to mammography over 4 years based on annual screening guidelines (analyses conducted in 2009)

**Results**—All reminders performed equally well in reducing number of days of non-adherence. Women randomized to receive supplemental interventions had significantly fewer days of non-adherence compared to women who received EUCR ( $p=0.0003$ ). BarrConCall+ and BarrConCall– conditions did not significantly differ in days non-adherent compared to women in the barriers-only condition (BarriCon).

---

Address correspondence to: Jennifer M. Gierisch, PhD, MPH, Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care, Durham Veteran Affairs Medical Center (152), 508 Fulton Street, Durham, NC 27705. j.gierisch@duke.edu; Duke University.

No financial disclosures were reported by the authors of this paper.

**Publisher's Disclaimer:** This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

**Conclusions**—The minimal intervention needed for sustained mammography use is a combination of a reminder followed by a priming letter and barrier-specific telephone counseling for women who become off-schedule. Additional costs associated with supplemental interventions should be considered by organizations deciding which interventions to use.

---

## Introduction

Each year, more than 192,000 U.S. women are diagnosed, and about 40,170 women die from breast cancer.<sup>1</sup> Numerous studies have shown that regular mammography use among women aged  $\geq 40$  years and reduces breast cancer morbidity and mortality.<sup>2–5</sup> Increased rates of annual screening could reduce mortality by 22% each year.<sup>6</sup> Although there have been impressive gains in proportions of U.S. women receiving recent mammograms, less than 50% of women receive two consecutive screening mammograms at recommended intervals.<sup>7</sup> After more than 1 decade of rising rates, some evidence suggests that mammography rates are no longer increasing in the U.S.<sup>8</sup> Thus, adherence to mammography among U.S. women remains a concern.

Until recently, most mammography interventions focused on encouraging short-term adherence (e.g., over 1–2 years). This was appropriate when mammography was at an earlier stage in the diffusion cycle; the primary challenge then was to move women from never having had mammograms to having their first mammograms or to move lapsed screeners back on schedule.<sup>9</sup> Now that most U.S. women have had one or more mammograms, the appropriate focus should be on sustained adherence over time. Most mammography intervention trials assessed outcomes across only one or two screening mammograms.<sup>10–14</sup> Efficacy of mammography promotion interventions over time is not known.

Relatively simple patient-directed strategies, such as reminders, are effective for increasing mammography adherence.<sup>15–25</sup> More-intensive patient-directed strategies (e.g., tailored messages, telephone counseling) are more effective than usual care or less-intensive strategies.<sup>15, 17, 20, 24–28</sup> Intensive intervention strategies, however, are more costly to develop, implement, and sustain<sup>15, 29, 30</sup> and may be beneficial for only some women. Many women may respond to minimal interventions that cue them to have their mammograms on schedule.

Adaptively designed interventions may be an effective strategy to promote sustained mammography adherence and to evaluate the “minimal intervention necessary for change” (MINC).<sup>31</sup> In adaptive designs, individuals receive different interventions or doses based on their responses to earlier interventions.<sup>32</sup> Few mammography intervention trials have used adaptive designs.<sup>13, 33–36</sup> Results of prior adaptively designed trials have been mixed but most found that more-intensive strategies, such as telephone counseling, outperformed less-intensive strategies and facilitated a return to adherence.<sup>33–35</sup> However, no trials were designed to sustain annual-interval adherence in average-risk, insured women aged  $\geq 40$  years. Moreover, none were designed to provide direct comparisons among various types of minimal and more-intensive intervention strategies over multiple screening opportunities.

## Rationale for Study Design

Personally Relevant Information on Screening Mammography (PRISM) was designed to test effects of two-step adaptively designed interventions to increase sustained mammography adherence. PRISM began with the least intensive evidence-based interventions, reserving more-intensive interventions for those who needed them. After delivery of one of three minimal reminder interventions, women who became non-adherent in any of the study's 4 years received more-intensive supplemental interventions. Depending on study condition, some women received additional content that elaborated on positive consequences of receiving or negative

consequences of skipping regular mammograms. PRISM sought to answer the following research questions.

1. Which reminder type is most effective for reducing days' non-adherent to mammography screening over 4 years?
2. To what extent do supplemental interventions reduce the number of days of non-adherence to mammography screening over 4 years compared to reminders only?
3. Which supplemental intervention is most effective for reducing the number of days non-adherent to mammography screening over 4 years?

## Methods

### Study Participants and Recruitment

Study eligibility and recruitment are described elsewhere.<sup>37</sup> Briefly, PRISM participants were identified through the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees (SHP). Eligible women were residents of North Carolina, aged 40 to 75 years, had no personal history of breast cancer, and had recent mammograms (8 to 9 months before enrollment). Recruitment occurred between October 2004 and April 2005. Participants ( $n=3547$ ) completed 30-minute baseline telephone interviews and agreed to participate in interventions and follow-up interviews over 4 years. IRBs for the University of North Carolina and Duke University approved this research.

### Study Objective and Design

**Study Objective and Design**—The primary study objective was to identify minimal intervention needed for sustained mammography adherence over 4 years. PRISM was a two-step adaptively designed intervention (Figure 1). The two-step process resulted in nine intervention strategies into which participants were randomized (Table 1). The first intervention step consisted of yearly mammography reminders. After delivery of reminders, women who became off-schedule in any of the 4 years received a second step of supplemental interventions.

In the first step, women received one of three reminders: enhanced usual care reminders (EUCRs), enhanced letter reminders (ELRs), and automated telephone reminders (ATRs). Twenty-five percent of eligible participants were allocated to EUCR, 37.5% to ATR and 37.5% to the ELR so that sample sizes would be sufficient for assessing efficacy of supplemental interventions. PRISM did not include a non-intervention control. Since multiple studies have shown that reminders are effective for promoting mammography use compared to non-intervention controls;<sup>15</sup> study investigators and the SHP concluded that it would be unethical to include a non-intervention group. Thus, a usual care reminder was created since none existed at the time of the study and it was referred to as enhanced, because it was more detailed than many minimal reminders.

All supplemental interventions consisted of priming letters (tailored letters which prepared women for counseling calls) and telephone counseling to address women's barriers to mammography adherence. In addition to a supplemental intervention condition that focused on barriers only (BarriCall), other supplemental intervention conditions emphasized positive consequences of having (BarriConCall+) or negative consequences of not having regular mammograms (BarriConCall-) to determine whether these additions improved adherence over barriers alone. Only women in the ATR and ELR groups could receive supplemental interventions. This design enabled assessment of the incremental impact of supplemental interventions compared to usual care reminders (EUCR). Inclusion of a supplemental intervention control arm that received only PRISM reminders (ATR/ELR only) permitted a

comparison of the efficacy of different supplemental intervention arms. Equal proportions of women were allocated to BarriCall (25%), BarriConCall+ (25%), BarriConCall- (25%) and PRISM reminder (25%) groups.

### PRISM Interventions

**Theoretic Orientation**—Because maintenance of repeated, infrequent behaviors, such as mammography, is likely controlled by deliberative reasoning processes and past experiences, this project integrated constructs from several predominant theories of health behavior and strategies for behavior enactment. Key constructs and strategies come from the Health Belief Model,<sup>38</sup> Theory of Planned Behavior,<sup>39</sup> Model of Goal-Directed Behavior,<sup>40</sup> and the Elaboration Likelihood Model.<sup>41</sup>

Both the Health Belief Model and Theory of Planned Behavior identify factors that motivate behavior change, such as risk perceptions, disease susceptibility and severity, self-efficacy, intentions, and assessments of barriers and benefits to engaging in a behavior. Model of Goal-Directed Behavior focuses on strategies that translate motivation to action, differentiating habitual behaviors, like getting regular exercise, from those performed infrequently. Model of Goal-Directed Behavior strategies include elaboration on positive consequences of engaging in and negative consequences of not engaging in a behavior. Elaboration Likelihood Model focuses on the role of information processing on attitude and behavior change, postulating that interventions motivating deep information processing are more likely to result in sustainable attitude and behavior changes.

**Reminders**—Details of PRISM reminders are provided elsewhere.<sup>37</sup> Briefly, EUCRs were printed letters reminding women they were due for their next mammograms. ELRs were printed booklets similar in content to EUCRs but contained several additions (e.g., reminder stickers, theory-guided information). ATRs contained identical content to EUCRs but were delivered as automated telephone messages using a female voice. All provided information about when women were due for their next mammograms and motivational messages to encourage them to be screened.

### Supplemental interventions

**Tailoring:** Supplemental interventions consisted of tailored priming letters and telephone counseling. Intervention materials were tailored to individual women by converting raw data from interviews into calculated variables that reflected characteristics of interest (e.g., women's mammography barriers).<sup>42, 43</sup> Tailoring algorithms determined which message each woman received from a message library. Women who reported no barriers or did not complete recent follow-up interviews received default messages.

**Priming Letters:** Priming letters primed or prepared women for subsequent telephone counseling calls. They were four-page printed booklets with cover art of colorful quilts and contained four sections: (1) text reminding women that they were overdue for their next mammograms; (2) tailored messages about overcoming barriers to mammography based on participants' self-reported barriers at annual telephone interviews; (3) narrative that addressed key barriers selected by researchers (BarriCall) plus a focus on either the positive consequences of getting (BarriConCall+) or the negative consequences (BarriConCall-) of not getting regular mammograms; and (4) text reminding women of screening mammography guidelines and telephone information for the health plan, NCI's Cancer Information Service (1-800-4-CANCER), and text informing women they would receive a call from a PRISM telephone counselor.

Priming letters addressed up to four barriers. On average, women reported two barriers (range 0–11). Barriers related to forgetting to make/keep mammography appointment, being too busy, or having competing problems or priorities (e.g., family or personal illness) were the most common.

Priming letters were pretested for content and appearance with a volunteer group of SHP members who were not part of PRISM. The priming letters' appearance, tailoring algorithms, and content was varied slightly each year so that they would not be identical to previous PLs, but the content was largely the same. Priming letters were developed in collaboration with People Designs Inc. of Durham, NC. People Designs printed priming letters each week based on weekly data transfers received from PRISM researchers. Study staff reviewed PLs' accuracy prior to delivery.

**Telephone Counseling:** The goal of telephone counseling calls was to review and facilitate elaboration on priming letter content and assist women in overcoming their mammography-related barriers. Each counseling call was unique, based on each woman's needs, but structured, based on a computer-assisted telephone counseling program developed in an earlier study and revised for this one.<sup>12, 44</sup> Calls started with brief introduction and confirmation of previous mammography dates. Counselors then asked women what was getting in the way of obtaining their next mammograms and suggested ways to overcome these barriers. Counselors repeated the process until women offered no additional barriers to screening. Barriers related to being too busy, difficulty scheduling appointment, competing priorities, and cost of mammography were the most common ones addressed during telephone counseling.

Depending on study condition, counselors also encouraged elaboration on either the positive (BarriConCall+) or negative (BarriConCall-) consequences of getting or skipping regular mammograms. Finally, counselors summarized key points of the session and helped women make a plan to be screened soon. Telephone counseling content was pretested with a volunteer group of women SHP members who were not part of PRISM.

Women who confirmed they had not received their mammograms at the time of calls received full counseling consisting of all components described above (mean 13.20 minutes; range 3.07–33.49). Women who had recent mammograms but were off-schedule received modified counseling in which counselors asked women to think about what delayed their mammograms, helped them get mammograms, and could have helped them be screened sooner. Modified counseling ended with a reminder of when they were due for their next mammograms (mean 5.20 minutes; range 2.01–15.50).

Telephone counselors participated in an intensive training program that included education about screening mammography and motivational interviewing techniques,<sup>45</sup> mock calls using the computer-assisted telephone counseling program, and weekly ongoing training. Training was led by PhD-level clinical psychologists and health educators. Quality assurance was conducted for ~10% of telephone counseling calls and addressed issues as needed with counselors.

**Intervention Delivery**—Researchers received monthly mammography claims information to determine women's adherence status and intervention delivery. Delivery of reminders occurred 2 to 3 months prior to women's mammography due dates. Women overdue for annual screening were sent mailed priming letters about 3 months past participants' due dates. Telephone counseling call attempts began 10 days later. Delivery of subsequent interventions over the 4-year study was timed from participants' most recent mammograms. Thus, participants continued to receive yearly mammography reminders 2–3 months before they were

due for their next mammograms, based on an annual screening recommendation,<sup>46</sup> followed by supplemental interventions if they became overdue in any year.

### Study Interviews

Participants completed 30-minute baseline telephone interviews during study recruitment and consent. Baseline interviews included questions about sociodemographics, mammography history, general health information, and mammography-specific psychosocial correlates. Telephone interviewers recontacted women at 12, 24, 36, and 42 months post-baseline survey. Nonparticipation in any follow-up interview did not preclude women from being contacted for subsequent interviews. The interviews at 12, 24, and 36 months were similar to baseline interviews; interviews at 42 months were abbreviated for budgetary reasons and included only items assessing outcomes and major variables of interest. Data were collected from 2004 to 2009.

Interviewers asked women to confirm dates of their most recent and prior mammograms, based on claims data. Women who reported a breast cancer diagnosis ( $n=63$ ) received abbreviated interviews but did not continue to receive interventions. Women who withdrew from the study were not contacted for follow-up interviews ( $n=128$ ). Recommended procedures were used for study retention, including multiple call attempts during participants' requested days/times of the week, small study incentives (postage stamps), and thank you letters.

### Measures

#### Outcome

The outcome, mammography non-adherence, was defined as the cumulative number of days non-adherent for each woman during the 4-year study period. Women became non-adherent when 365 days had elapsed since their last screening. This outcome was based on American Cancer Society recommendations at the time of the study which suggested women aged  $\geq 40$  years should have mammograms annually. Mammograms occurring within 6 months of the previous one were likely diagnostic or follow-up visits and removed from outcome calculation. 47 Once non-adherent, a calculated variable counted number of days until receipt of a subsequent mammogram. That is, each day beyond 365 contributed 1 day of non-adherence; counting ceased when women received subsequent mammograms but resumed again if women did not receive their next mammograms within 365 days. Values for cumulative days of non-adherence could range from 0 to 1,098.

The outcome was assessed through self-report and health claims data. Women who completed follow-up interviews were asked to confirm dates of both their recent and prior mammograms obtained from claims data. If a discrepancy between self-report and claims data occurred, self-reports were used, because it often took several months for mammograms to appear in claims records. Previous research confirms that self-reports are valid measures of recent mammography use, especially for women in healthcare organizations and over short recall periods.<sup>48, 49</sup>

#### Independent Variables

Independent variables were based on intervention strategies.

#### Costs

Costs of PRISM interventions were estimated assuming fully scaled dissemination within a large health organization. Intervention costs included production expenses (e.g., postage, printing, envelopes) and personnel time spent producing and delivering interventions and supervising and training staff. Estimates excluded research and development costs that would

not be incurred during replication and an indirect cost level of 50% was assumed for facilities and infrastructure costs. For telephone counseling, an average call length of 13 minutes was assumed with 10 call attempts per completed call.

### Sample Size

Power analyses indicated a target sample size of about 3545 participants to achieve 80% power to detect a 6% difference in effect among intervention arms, with alpha of 0.05 and two-tailed tests. Sample size was adjusted for estimated attrition over the 4-year study as well as multiple testing in comparisons of study groups. This sample size was sufficient to detect potentially small effects between study groups. The adherence level was higher than expected; thus, fewer participants received supplemental interventions.

### Data Analysis

Analyses were intent-to-treat and included all women randomized to interventions except those diagnosed with breast cancer ( $n=63$ ) and women who died during the study ( $n=29$ ). The final analytic sample included 3455 participants. For study withdrawals ( $n=128$ ), mammography dates were imputed based on the average length of time between mammograms prior to leaving the study.

Bootstrapping procedures were used with case resampling to assess differences in mean number of days' non-adherent among intervention strategies.<sup>50</sup> Bootstrapping procedures adjusted for multiple comparisons. In brief, bootstrapping is a nonparametric procedure that does not assume normal distribution of data. Bootstrapping procedures resampled data 10,000 times and computed p-values for each sample. From those sample p-values, an adjusted p-value was calculated.

To assess intervention efficiency, it was first examined whether there were any significant differences in cumulative number of days non-adherent for women randomized to each of the study reminder conditions. Next, it was checked whether there were significant differences in cumulative days non-adherent for women randomized to receive EUCR compared to supplemental interventions and among supplemental interventions. Analyses were conducted in 2009 using the MULTTEST procedure in SAS 9.2 statistical software.

## Results

### Sample characteristics

Sample characteristics are reported in Table 2. Most were white, aged  $\geq 50$  years, college-educated, married or living as married, did not report financial hardship, and described their health as good or excellent. Women who withdrew ( $n=128$ ) did not differ significantly by study condition or sociodemographic characteristics.

### Intervention Efficacy

To determine which reminder type was most effective for reducing days non-adherent (Research Question 1), average days non-adherent were compared among reminder-only conditions (that is, among women not randomized to receive any supplemental interventions). Differences in mean days non-adherent over the study were not significant among reminder conditions and ranged from 15.73 to 24.13 days (Table 3).

To determine the extent to which supplemental interventions reduced days non-adherent beyond reminders only (Research Question 2), average days non-adherent were compared among women randomized to receive EUCRs to women randomized to receive any of the three supplemental intervention conditions (BarriCall, BarriConCall+, BarriConCall-). Women

randomized to receive any form of supplemental intervention had significantly fewer mean days non-adherent (183.40) than women receiving EUCRs only (221.95;  $p$ -value=0.0003). Absolute difference in mean days non-adherent for these groups was 38.55.

It was then examined which supplemental intervention strategy was most effective in reducing days non-adherent (Research Question 3). Because there were no significant differences among the three reminder conditions (Research Question 1), collapsed supplemental conditions were collapsed into three groups (BarriCall, BarriConCall+, BarriConCall-). First, the BarriConCall+ and BarriConCall- conditions were compared. Finding no significant differences, these conditions were collapsed into one group (BarriConCall+/-). The EUCR were then compared to two types of supplemental intervention conditions (BarriCall and BarriConCall+/-). Both types of supplemental interventions significantly reduced average days non-adherent compared to EUCR (mean differences 39.56 and 38.05 days respectively;  $p$ -values 0.0042 and 0.0008 respectively). BarriCall and BarriConCall+/- conditions performed equally well in reducing days non-adherent ( $p$ -value=0.98) (Table 4).

**Cost Analyses**—Previously, the cost of reminder conditions per intended recipient was reported as \$0.86 for EUCR, \$0.35 for ATR, and \$1.34 for ELR.<sup>37</sup> A universal cost was estimated for supplemental interventions (priming letters + telephone counseling), regardless of study condition; cost of delivery was not affected by study condition. Assuming delivery to 500,000 women per year, the estimated cost per intended recipient is \$2.76 for priming letters and \$16.65 for telephone counseling. Total cost of delivering the complete supplemental intervention one time to one woman is estimated at \$19.41.

## Discussion

To our knowledge, PRISM is the first adaptively designed intervention study to assess a combination of minimal and more-intensive strategies on *sustained* mammography adherence over multiple screening opportunities. Results indicate that reminders followed by priming letters and barriers-specific telephone counseling for women who became off-schedule produced the fewest cumulative days non-adherent. Differences among study conditions were modest; inclusion of any supplemental interventions increased cost per dose by \$19.41.

This study supports previous literature showing effectiveness of simple mammography reminders<sup>15</sup> and extends these finding to longer-term outcomes. On average, when women received reminders alone, there were averages of 198 to 222 days non-adherent per woman over the 4-year study. These numbers translate to an average of about 50 to 60 days non-adherent per woman-year of the study, suggesting that most women in PRISM received regular, on-schedule mammograms after delivery of reminders. However, since PRISM did not include a no-intervention control group, it is not possible to determine how much of these effects are due to reminder efficacy. While all reminder types were equally effective, ATRs cost less to deliver than printed materials.<sup>37</sup> Many health plans and other medical organizations already use automated telephone reminders over traditional mailed reminders as a less costly but equally effective option for promoting regular mammography. Other organizations may want to consider this approach.

Providing supplemental interventions facilitated a return to adherence among women who were off-schedule. Women randomized to receive priming letters and telephone counseling, in addition to reminders, had fewer average days non-adherent compared to women who received EUCR. Many studies support telephone counseling as an effective strategy to promote mammography adherence.<sup>12, 15, 29, 51, 52</sup> PRISM extends these findings in several ways. First, results showed that addition of a more-intensive, tailored counseling component for women



who became off-schedule was an effective strategy to reduce days non-adherent over *multiple* years. Past studies on telephone counseling focused on short-term outcomes.<sup>12, 52</sup>

Results also indicate that telephone counseling addressing women's barriers to getting mammograms may be the minimal component necessary for tailored counseling calls. While this finding suggests that enhancements to the barriers strategy did not add value, it is also plausible that if the consequences interventions had been stronger or designed differently, there might have been greater effects. Alternatively, barriers may account for the largest variation in non-adherence. Once barriers are addressed, the incremental benefit of adding additional counseling components may be small. Given current attention to issues of comparative effectiveness, understanding when additional intervention components add value and when they do not is critical to improving the U.S. healthcare system.

While overall differences in average days non-adherent between intervention groups were modest, it is likely that study effects would have been greater if there had not been a usual care condition enhanced with information (e.g., mammography guidelines, insurance coverage information). At the time of the study, the State Health Plan did not have a mammography reminder system. The PRISM-enhanced usual care reminder likely contained information beyond what many reminder systems typically use and could have attenuated differences between groups.

Findings also should be viewed in the context of long-term screening behavior. Modest savings in days non-adherent for the study period may add up over potential decades of regular screening, depending on the durability of intervention effects over time. While supplemental interventions contributed to 39 fewer days non-adherent over the 4-year study compared to EUCRs, this would translate to nearly 200 days of avoided non-adherence over 2 decades of screening and to nearly 300 days over 3 decades of screening. Some studies suggest that even relatively short delays of 6–12 months between screenings might contribute to some of the nation's breast cancer morbidity and mortality.<sup>53–55</sup> Intervention strategies that result in modest savings in screening delays may have larger impacts on breast cancer mortality over time. However, it still is not clear just how many days would make a clinical difference. There will not be one answer since this is a multifactorial issue.

This study has several strengths, including an adaptive design which allowed the allocation of more-intensive and costly interventions for only those women most likely to benefit, based on their adherence status. Other study strengths include use of mammography claims data verified through self-reports to determine adherence, which likely enhanced accuracy of calculating mammography use.

This study also has some limitations. PRISM's design required that all women have health insurance coverage and recent mammograms prior to study entry. Results should not be generalized beyond these groups. Overall, women were well-educated, and numbers of black women and other racial and ethnic minorities were modest. Most likely, this was a function of eligibility criteria, but it is not possible to be certain. Assuring external validity with regard to more diverse socioeconomic and racial/ethnic backgrounds should be a focus of future research.

While the incremental benefit of supplemental interventions added to a reminder system were assessed, the design does not permit the disentangling of effects of mailed priming letters from telephone counseling calls. These two strategies were implemented as a complementary, bundled intervention. Adding only supplemental mailed mammography promotion materials to a reminder system may not be an effective strategy to facilitate a return to adherence.<sup>13, 33, 34</sup> In contrast, other studies support telephone counseling as a stand alone strategy to promote

mammography adherence.<sup>56, 57</sup> It is reasonable to consider that telephone counseling alone would have added benefit beyond annual reminders.

Interventions were designed with potential dissemination in mind and conducted the study with a defined population of health plan members. While it is hypothesized that findings would be similar if disseminated within an entire health plan, future effectiveness trials should test this assumption with both adherent and non-adherent women. It is plausible that having been screened recently, coupled with participating in a 4-year study with annual study interviews, may have motivated some women to have mammograms.<sup>58</sup> Future studies should assess intervention reach, implementation, and effectiveness in non-research settings.<sup>59, 60</sup>

While it appears that the minimal intervention needed for sustained mammography use is a combination of a reminder followed by a priming letter and barrier-specific telephone counseling for women who become off-schedule, additional costs associated with supplemental interventions (\$19.41 per dose) should be considered by any organization deciding which interventions to use. Although it was not possible in the current study to evaluate cost effectiveness of supplemental interventions, such cost analyses should be a core component in future research.

## Acknowledgments

PRISM was funded by the National Cancer Institute (grant 5R01CA105786). At the time of these analyses, Dr. Gierisch was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (grant 2T32HS000079) and Ms. DeFrank was funded by the UNC Cancer Care and Quality Training Program (R25T CA116339).

The authors wish to thank Deborah Usinger and Tara Strigo for their assistance with data collection and project management. We thank Isaac Lipkus for his help throughout the project and Suzanne O'Neill for her help with telephone counseling. We appreciate the work of David Farrell and his colleagues at People Designs, Durham, NC. We acknowledge our dedicated telephone counselors, Mary Brinson and Paulette Becoat. We are also grateful to our partners at the NC State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, and all the PRISM participants for making this research possible.

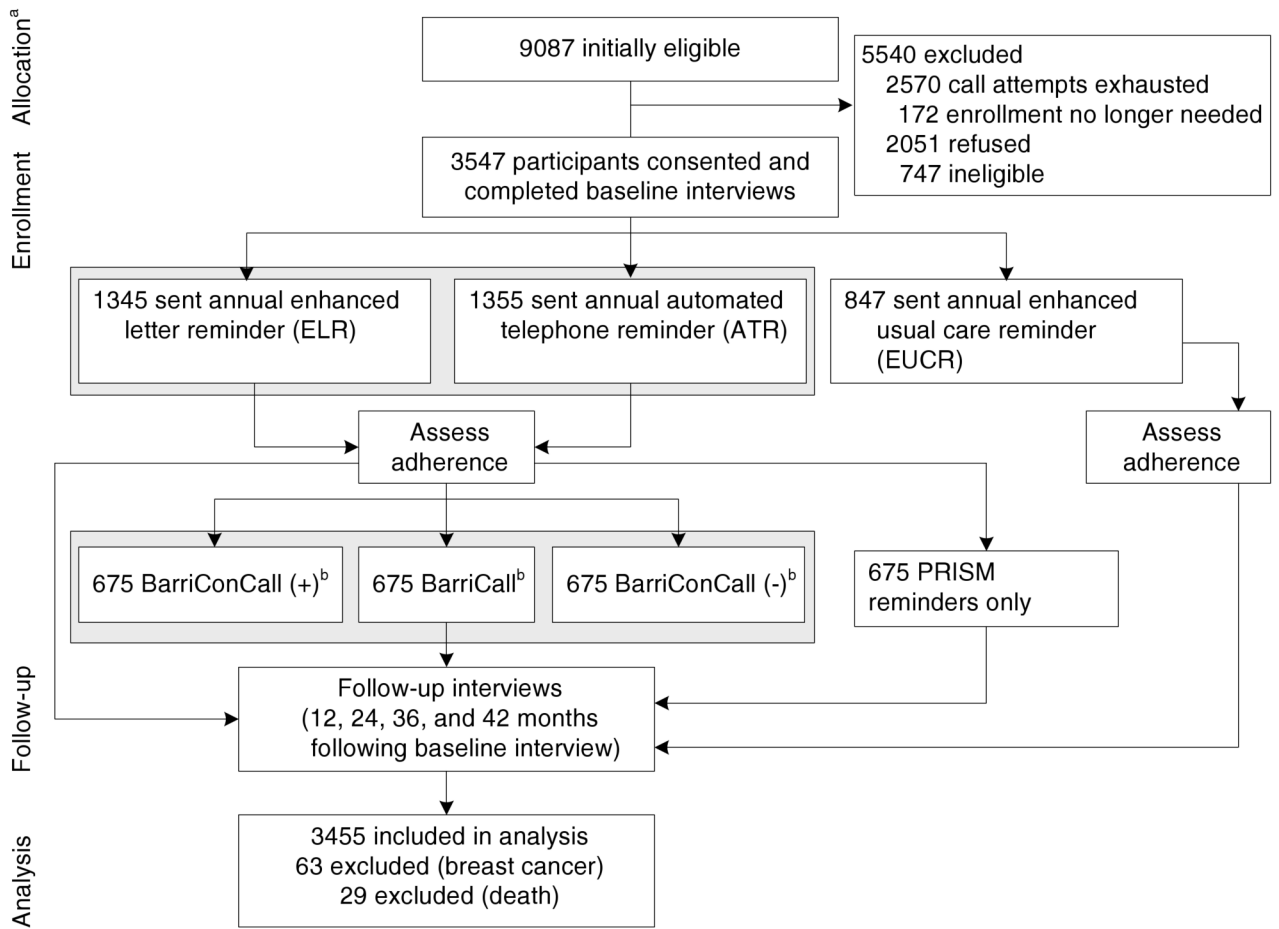
## References

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2009. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2009.
2. Elmore JG, Armstrong K, Lehman CD, Fletcher SW. Screening for breast cancer. *JAMA* 2005;293(10):1245–56. [PubMed: 15755947]
3. Humphrey LL, Helfand M, Chan BK, Woolf SH. Breast cancer screening: a summary of the evidence for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Ann Intern Med* 2002;137(5 Part 1):347–60. [PubMed: 12204020]
4. Freedman GM, Anderson PR, Goldstein LJ, Hanlon AL, Cianfrocca ME, Millenson MM, et al. Routine mammography is associated with earlier stage disease and greater eligibility for breast conservation in breast carcinoma patients age 40 years and older. *Cancer* 2003;98(5):918–25. [PubMed: 12942557]
5. Tabar L, Yen MF, Vitak B, Chen HH, Smith RA, Duffy SW. Mammography service screening and mortality in breast cancer patients: 20-year follow-up before and after introduction of screening. *Lancet* 2003;361(9367):1405–10. [PubMed: 12727392]
6. Byers T, Mouchawar J, Marks J, et al. The American Cancer Society challenge goals. How far can cancer rates decline in the U.S. by the year 2015? *Cancer* 1999;86(4):715–27. [PubMed: 10440701]
7. Clark MA, Rakowski W, Bonacore LB. Repeat mammography: prevalence estimates and considerations for assessment. *Ann Behav Med* 2003;26(3):201–11. [PubMed: 14644696]
8. Breen N, Cronin K, Meissner HI, et al. Reported drop in mammography: is this cause for concern? *Cancer* 2007;109(12):2405–9. [PubMed: 17503429]
9. Vernon SW, Briss PA, Tiro JA, Warnecke RB. Some methodologic lessons learned from cancer screening research. *Cancer* 2004;101(5 Suppl):1131–45. [PubMed: 15316907]

10. Chan EC, Vernon SW. Implementing an intervention to promote colon cancer screening through e-mail over the Internet: lessons learned from a pilot study. *Med Care* 2008;46(9 Suppl 1):S117–22. [PubMed: 18725823]
11. Clark MA, Rakowski W, Ehrich B, Rimer BK, Velicer WF, Dube CE, et al. The effect of a stage-matched and tailored intervention on repeat mammography. *Am J Prev Med* 2002;22(1):1–7. [PubMed: 11777672]
12. Rimer BK, Halabi S, Skinner CS, Lipkus IM, Strigo TS, Kaplan EB, et al. Effects of a mammography decision-making intervention at 12 and 24 months. *Am J Prev Med* 2002;22(4):247–57. [PubMed: 11988381]
13. Rakowski W, Lipkus IM, Clark MA, Rimer BK, Ehrich B, Lyna PR, et al. Reminder letter, tailored stepped-care, and self-choice comparison for repeat mammography. *Am J Prev Med* 2003;25(4):308–14. [PubMed: 14580632]
14. Earp JA, Eng E, O'Malley MS, Altpeter M, Rauscher G, Mayne L, et al. Increasing use of mammography among older, rural African American women: results from a community trial. *Am J Public Health* 2002;92(4):646–54. [PubMed: 11919066]
15. Baron RC, Rimer BK, Breslow RA, Coates RJ, Kerner J, Melillo S, et al. Client-directed interventions to increase community demand for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2008;35(1 Suppl):S34–55. [PubMed: 18541187]
16. Baron RC, Rimer BK, Coates RJ, Kerner J, Kalra GP, Melillo S, et al. Client-directed interventions to increase community access to breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2008;35(1 Suppl):S56–66. [PubMed: 18541188]
17. Bonfill X, Marzo M, Pladevall M, Marti J, Emparanza JI. Strategies for increasing women participation in community breast cancer screening. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2001; (1):CD002943. [PubMed: 11279781]
18. Denhaerynck K, Lesaffre E, Baele J, Cortebeek K, Van Overstraete E, Buntinx F. Mammography screening attendance: meta-analysis of the effect of direct-contact invitation. *Am J Prev Med* 2003;25(3):195–203. [PubMed: 14507525]
19. Jepson R, Clegg A, Forbes C, Lewis R, Sowden A, Kleijnen J. The determinants of screening uptake and interventions for increasing uptake: a systematic review. *Health Technol Assess* 2000;4(14):i–vii. 1–133. [PubMed: 10984843]
20. Legler J, Meissner HI, Coyne C, Breen N, Chollette V, Rimer BK. The effectiveness of interventions to promote mammography among women with historically lower rates of screening. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2002;11(1):59–71. [PubMed: 11815402]
21. Shea S, DuMouchel W, Bahamonde L. A meta-analysis of 16 randomized controlled trials to evaluate computer-based clinical reminder systems for preventive care in the ambulatory setting. *J Am Med Assoc* 1996;3(6):399–409. [PubMed: 8930856]
22. Stone EG, Morton SC, Hulscher ME, Maglione MA, Roth EA, Grimshaw JM, et al. Interventions that increase use of adult immunization and cancer screening services: a meta-analysis. *Ann Intern Med* 2002;136(9):641–51. [PubMed: 11992299]
23. Wagner TH. The effectiveness of mailed patient reminders on mammography screening: a meta-analysis. *Am J Prev Med* 1998;14(1):64–70. [PubMed: 9476837]
24. Yabroff KR, Mandelblatt JS. Interventions targeted toward patients to increase mammography use. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 1999;8(9):749–57. [PubMed: 10498393]
25. Yabroff KR, O'Malley A, Mangan P, Mandelblatt J. Inreach and outreach interventions to improve mammography use. *J Am Med Womens Assoc* 2001;56(4):166–73. 188. [PubMed: 11759785]
26. Bailey TM, Delva J, Gretebeck K, Siefert K, Ismail A. A systematic review of mammography educational interventions for low-income women. *Am J Health Promot* 2005;20(2):96–107. [PubMed: 16295701]
27. Sohl SJ, Moyer A. Tailored interventions to promote mammography screening: A meta-analytic review. *Prev Med*. 2007
28. Noar SM, Benac CN, Harris MS. Does tailoring matter? Meta-analytic review of tailored print health behavior change interventions. *Psychol Bull* 2007;133(4):673–93. [PubMed: 17592961]

29. Saywell RM Jr, Champion VL, Skinner CS, Menon U, Daggy J. A cost-effectiveness comparison of three tailored interventions to increase mammography screening. *J Womens Health (Larchmt)* 2004;13(8):909–18. [PubMed: 15671706]
30. Saywell RM Jr, Champion VL, Zollinger TW, Maraj M, Skinner CS, Zoppi KA, et al. The cost effectiveness of 5 interventions to increase mammography adherence in a managed care population. *Am J Manag Care* 2003;9(1):33–44. [PubMed: 12549813]
31. Meissner HI, Vernon SW, Rimer BK, Wilson KM, Rakowski W, Briss PA, et al. The future of research that promotes cancer screening. *Cancer* 2004;101(5 Suppl):1251–9. [PubMed: 15316910]
32. Collins LM, Murphy SA, Bierman KL. A conceptual framework for adaptive preventive interventions. *Prev Sci* 2004;5(3):185–96. [PubMed: 15470938]
33. King ES, Rimer BK, Seay J, Balslem A, Engstrom PF. Promoting mammography use through progressive interventions: Is it effective? *Am J Public Health* 1994;84(1):104–6. [PubMed: 8279593]
34. Taplin SH, Barlow WE, Ludman E, MacLehos R, Meyer DM, Seger D, et al. Testing reminder and motivational telephone calls to increase screening mammography: a randomized study. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000;92(3):233–42. [PubMed: 10655440]
35. Janz NK, Schottenfeld D, Doerr KM, Selig SM, Dunn RL, Strawderman M, et al. A two-step intervention of increase mammography among women aged 65 and older. *Am J Public Health* 1997;87(10):1683–6. [PubMed: 9357355]
36. Costanza ME, Stoddard AM, Luckmann R, White MJ, Spitz Avrunin J, Clemow L. Promoting mammography: results of a randomized trial of telephone counseling and a medical practice intervention. *Am J Prev Med* 2000;19(1):39–46. [PubMed: 10865162]
37. DeFrank JT, Rimer BK, Gierisch JM, Bowling JM, Farrell D, Skinner CS. Impact of mailed and automated telephone reminders on receipt of repeat mammograms: a randomized controlled trial. *Am J Prev Med* 2009;36(6):459–67. [PubMed: 19362800]
38. Hochbaum, GM. Public participation in medical screening programs: A sociopsychological study. Washington DC: Government Printing Office; 1958.
39. Ajzen I. The theory of planned behavior. *Organ Behav Hum Decis Process* 1991;50:179–211.
40. Perugini M, Bagozzi RP. The role of desires and anticipated emotions in goal-directed behaviours: broadening and deepening the theory of planned behaviour. *Br J Soc Psychol* 2001;40(Pt 1):79–98. [PubMed: 11329835]
41. Petty, RE.; Cacioppo, JT. Communication and persuasion: Central and peripheral routes to attitude change. New York: Springer-Verlag; 1986.
42. Kreuter MW, Strecher VJ, Glassman B. One size does not fit all: the case for tailoring print materials. *Ann Behav Med* 1999;21(4):276–83. [PubMed: 10721433]
43. Kreuter MW, Wray RJ. Tailored and targeted health communication: strategies for enhancing information relevance. *Am J Health Behav* 2003;27(3S):S227–32. [PubMed: 14672383]
44. Lipkus IM, Rimer BK, Halabi S, Strigo TS. Can tailored interventions increase mammography use among HMO women? *Am J Prev Med* 2000;18(1):1–10. [PubMed: 10808977]
45. Miller, WR.; Rollnick, S. Motivational interviewing. New York, NY: Guilford Press; 1991.
46. Smith RA, Saslow D, Sawyer KA, Burke W, Costanza ME, Evans WP 3rd, et al. American Cancer Society guidelines for breast cancer screening: update 2003. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2003;53(3):141–69. [PubMed: 12809408]
47. D'Oris, CJ.; Bassett, LW.; Berg, WA., et al. Breast Imaging Reporting and Database System: ACR BI-RADS-Mammography. 4th. Reston, VA: 2003.
48. Rauscher GH, Johnson TP, Cho YI, Walk JA. Accuracy of self-reported cancer-screening histories: a meta-analysis. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2008;17(4):748–57. [PubMed: 18381468]
49. King ES, Rimer BK, Trock B, Balslem A, Engstrom P. How valid are mammography self-reports? *Am J Public Health* 1990;80(11):1386–8. [PubMed: 2240315]
50. Westfall, PH.; Young, SS. Resampling-based multiple testing: Examples and methods for p-value adjustment. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 1993.
51. Carney PA, Harwood BG, Greene MA, Goodrich ME. Impact of a telephone counseling intervention on transitions in stage of change and adherence to interval mammography screening (U.S.). *Cancer Causes Control* 2005;16(7):799–807. [PubMed: 16132790]

52. Champion VL, Skinner CS, Menon U, Seshadri R, Anzalone DC, Rawl SM. Comparisons of tailored mammography interventions at two months postintervention. *Ann Behav Med* 2002;24(3):211–8. [PubMed: 12173678]
53. White E, Miglioretti DL, Yankaskas BC, Geller BM, Rosenberg RD, Kerlikowske K, et al. Biennial versus annual mammography and the risk of late-stage breast cancer. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2004;96(24):1832–9. [PubMed: 15601639]
54. Blanchard K, Colbert JA, Puri D, Weissman J, Moy B, Kopans DB, et al. Mammographic screening: patterns of use and estimated impact on breast carcinoma survival. *Cancer* 2004;101(3):495–507. [PubMed: 15274062]
55. Michaelson J, Satija S, Moore R, Weber G, Halpern E, Garland A, et al. The pattern of breast cancer screening utilization and its consequences. *Cancer* 2002;94(1):37–43. [PubMed: 11815958]
56. Champion V, Maraj M, Hui S, Perkins AJ, Tierney W, Menon U, et al. Comparison of tailored interventions to increase mammography screening in nonadherent older women. *Prev Med* 2003;36(2):150–8. [PubMed: 12590989]
57. Champion V, Skinner CS, Hui S, Monahan P, Juliar B, Daggy J, et al. The effect of telephone versus print tailoring for mammography adherence. *Patient Educ Couns* 2007;65(3):416–23. [PubMed: 17196358]
58. del Junco DJ, Vernon SW, Coan SP, Tiro JA, Bastian LA, Savas LS, et al. Promoting regular mammography screening I. A systematic assessment of validity in a randomized trial. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2008;100(5):333–46. [PubMed: 18314473]
59. Green LW, Glasgow RE. Evaluating the relevance, generalization, and applicability of research: issues in external validation and translation methodology. *Eval Health Prof* 2006;29(1):126–53. [PubMed: 16510882]
60. Green LW, Glasgow RE, Atkins D, Stange K. Making evidence from research more relevant, useful, and actionable in policy, program planning, and practice slips “twixt cup and lip”. *Am J Prev Med* 2009;37(6 Suppl 1):S187–91. [PubMed: 19896017]



**Figure 1. PRISM study design**

<sup>a</sup> Random allocation to study arms occurred *prior* to participant contact and recruitment. Larger numbers for ATR and ELR were planned for analysis of supplemental interventions. Equal proportions of participants were allocated to supplemental interventions.

<sup>b</sup> Supplemental intervention for non-adherent women in any year.

PRISM, Personally Relevant Information on Screening Mammography

**Table 1**  
**PRISM study intervention strategies**

<b>Reminder intervention</b>	<b>Supplemental interventions</b>	<b>Study condition</b>	<b>n (%)</b>
<i><b>Reminder-only conditions</b></i>			
Enhanced usual care reminder	None	EUCR	823 (23.8)
Automated telephone reminder	None	ATR	318 (9.2)
Enhanced letter reminder	None	ELR	337 (9.8)
<i><b>Supplemental intervention conditions</b></i>			
Automated telephone reminder	Barriers-only priming letter and telephone counseling	ATR + BarriCall	338 (9.8)
Automated telephone reminder	Barriers + positive consequences priming letter and telephone counseling	ATR + BarriConCall+	335 (9.7)
Automated telephone reminder	Barriers + negative consequences priming letter and telephone counseling	ATR + BarriConCall-	328 (9.5)
Enhanced letter reminder	Barriers-only priming letter and telephone counseling	ELR + BarriCall	318 (9.2)
Enhanced letter reminder	Barriers + positive consequences priming letter and telephone counseling	ELR + BarriConCall+	327 (9.5)
Enhanced letter reminder	Barriers + negative consequences priming letter and telephone counseling	ELR + BarriConCall-	331 (9.6)

**Table 2**  
**Characteristics of analytic sample by collapsed intervention strategies**

Characteristic	Collapsed intervention strategies				Analytic Sample (n = 3,455) n (%)	p-value
	Supplemental Interventions (n = 1,977) n (%)	ATR/ELR Reminders (n = 655) n (%)	Enhanced Usual Care Reminders (n = 823) n (%)	Enhanced Usual Care Reminders (n = 823) n (%)		
<b>Race</b>						0.18
White	173 (87.2)	577 (88.1)	736 (89.4)	736 (89.4)	3036 (87.9)	
Black	220 (11.1)	67 (10.2)	80 (9.7)	80 (9.7)	367 (10.6)	
Asian	9 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	—	—	11 (0.3)	
Native Hawaiian	—	1 (0.2)	—	—	1 (0.03)	
American Indian	22 (1.1)	6 (0.9)	4 (0.5)	4 (0.5)	32 (0.9)	
Self-reported other or refused to report	3 (0.2)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.4)	3 (0.4)	8 (0.2)	
<b>Age (years)</b>						0.75
40–49	426 (21.6)	132 (20.2)	174 (21.1)	174 (21.1)	732 (21.2)	
50–74	1551 (78.5)	523 (79.9)	649 (78.9)	649 (78.9)	2723 (78.8)	
<b>Education</b>						0.62
High school or less	331 (16.8)	111 (17.0)	127 (15.4)	127 (15.4)	569 (16.5)	
Some college or technical school	397 (20.1)	137 (20.9)	186 (22.6)	186 (22.6)	720 (20.9)	
College degree or more	1247 (63.1)	407 (62.1)	510 (62.0)	510 (62.0)	2164 (62.7)	
<b>Marital Status</b>						0.81
Married or living as married	1585 (80.2)	532 (81.2)	664 (80.9)	664 (80.9)	2781 (80.5)	
Not married	392 (19.8)	123 (18.8)	157 (19.1)	157 (19.1)	672 (19.5)	
<b>Work for pay</b>						0.31
Yes	1545 (78.2)	513 (78.3)	664 (80.7)	664 (80.7)	2722 (78.8)	
No	432 (21.9)	142 (21.7)	159 (19.3)	159 (19.3)	733 (21.2)	
<b>Perceived financial status</b>						0.10
No hardship	1268 (64.7)	393 (60.1)	522 (64.0)	522 (64.0)	2183 (63.7)	
Financial hardship	691 (35.3)	261 (39.9)	293 (36.0)	293 (36.0)	1245 (36.3)	
<b>Health Status</b>						0.27
Excellent	741 (37.5)	232 (35.5)	298 (36.3)	298 (36.3)	1271 (36.8)	
Good	1072 (54.3)	352 (53.9)	441 (53.7)	441 (53.7)	1865 (54.1)	



Characteristic	Collapsed intervention strategies				Analytic Sample (n = 3,455) n (%)	p-value
	Supplemental Interventions (n = 1,977) n (%)	ATR/ELR Reminders (n = 655) n (%)	Enhanced Usual Care Reminders (n = 823) n (%)			
Fair	149 (7.5)	62 (9.5)	69 (8.4)	280 (8.1)		
Poor	14 (0.7)	7 (1.1)	13 (1.6)	34 (1.0)		
<b>Number of People in Household</b>						
No Others	224 (11.3)	58 (8.9)	100 (12.2)	382 (11.1)	0.20	
One person	1056 (53.4)	344 (52.5)	428 (52.0)	1828 (52.9)		
Two people	349 (17.7)	146 (22.3)	146 (17.7)	641 (18.6)		
Three people	241 (12.2)	75 (11.5)	102 (12.4)	418 (12.1)		
Four or more	107 (5.4)	32 (4.9)	47 (5.7)	186 (5.4)		

**Table 3**  
**Comparison of reminder strategies**

<b>Study condition comparisons</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Days non-adherent (M [SD])</b>	<b>Difference in days</b>	<b><i>p-value</i></b>
<u>ELR and EUCR</u>			24.13	0.20
Enhanced letter reminder	337	197.82 (234.57)		
Enhanced usual care reminder	823	221.95 (258.38)		
<u>ATR and EUCR</u>			15.73	0.51
Automated telephone reminder	318	206.22 (244.05)		
Enhanced usual care reminder	823	221.95 (258.38)		

**Table 4**  
**Comparison of supplemental strategies**

<b>Study condition comparisons</b>	<b><i>n</i></b>	<b>Days non-adherent (M [SD])</b>	<b>Difference in days</b>	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>
<u>Supplemental interventions and EUCR</u>			38.55	<b>0.0003</b>
Any supplemental intervention	1977	183.40 (217.35)		
Enhanced usual care reminder	823	221.95 (258.38)		
<u>BarriConCall + and BarriConCall –</u>			5.38	0.9661
BarriConCall +	662	181.22 (209.11)		
BarriConCall –	659	186.60 (221.68)		
<u>BarriCall and EUCR</u>			39.56	<b>0.0042</b>
Barriers-only priming letter and telephone counseling	656	182.39 (221.37)		
Enhanced usual care reminder	823	221.95 (258.38)		
<u>BarriConCall +/- and EUCR</u>			38.05	<b>0.0008</b>
Barriers plus positive/negative consequences priming letter and telephone counseling	1321	183.90 (215.40)		
Enhanced usual care reminder	823	221.95 (258.38)		
<u>BarriConCall (+/-) and BarriCall</u>			1.51	0.9871
Barriers plus positive/negative consequences priming letter and telephone counseling	1321	183.90 (215.40)		
Barriers-only priming letter and telephone counseling	656	182.39 (221.37)		