Reviewer's report

Title: Inter-rater reliability of the COSMIN (COnsensus-based Standards for the selection of health status Measurement Instruments) Checklist

Version: 1 Date: 25 July 2010

Reviewer: Javier Rejas

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

I have no major compulsory comments.

- Minor Essential Revisions

I have a comment for researcher which could improved easily some of the points raised by authors. The comment refers to the low inter-rater reliability showed in the research and the fact that many participants were enrolled with different level of training and experience in HR-PRO tools utilization and/or assessment. As apparently, authors knew the level of experience of participants, one interesting possibility could be calculating the reliability not in the whole sample but divided in groups of participants as per their level of experience. If reliability were high or appropriate as much as the level of experience increases, then, this could support one of the proposals of authors for future research that was to repeat the study with well-trained participants. In any case, this additional analysis would serve to test whether the level of experience/training in HR-PRO evaluation impact in the reliability of COSMIN tool.

I also miss in the discussion section references to other similar tools in areas different than HR-PRO. For example, if similar tools exist to evaluate clinical trials, health economic evaluations, etc., and if yes to comment on how these other tools work from the inter-rater reliability point of view.

Perhaps, the manuscript could benefit of adding an extra table including data on participants and descriptive information of the study rather than in a narrative form which is less impacting from the reader perspective.

- Discretionary Revisions

It seems to me that some extra work could have been done in including more references in the manuscript. This comment is linked with previous minor comment about other similar tools than COSMIN but used to test inter-rater reliability in other areas of human health research.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.