Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing the validity of the Global Activity Limitation Indicator in fourteen European countries

Version: 5 Date: 27 September 2014

Reviewer: Julio Cabrero-Garcia

Reviewer's report:

The authors have reasonably answered the raised questions and they have introduced changes in the revised manuscript which have clarified the doubtful points, singularly in Statistic analysis. The manuscript is a solid contribution to the topic.

I have only two considerations, both Discretionary revisions.

1. Measurement.

While the form of scoring (sum of limitations) the ADL and IADL limitations is amply justified, it is not so with the way of scoring (three categories GALI mode) functional limitations (FL). For instance, while the association found in this study between FL and GALI was significantly lower than that found between ADL (and IADL) limitations and GALI, Verbrugge et al. (ref. 13 in the manuscript) found the opposite pattern, scoring FL as a count of functional limitations (although the overall indicator used to measure global disability was not GALI).

2. Abstract.

I have some doubts that the phrase "We suspect cross-country differences in the results may be due to variations in: the implementation of the EHIS, the perception of functioning and limitations, and the understanding of the GALI question." is appropriate in paragraph "Results": Conclusions?

Thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.