Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of the Birmingham IBS Symptom Questionnaire.

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2008

Reviewer: Lloyd Sutherland

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary changes

1. Community (population based) sample rather than a referral based sample
2. Well written, concise review of the literature
3. The authors might want to consider placing a copyright symbol on the questionnaire, not for monetary gain but to control the use of the questionnaire.

Minor essential revisions

1. Questions in the questionnaire use a 4 week passage of time whilst the second questionnaire was sent out within 10 days. Given the fact that the authors state in the Background that trials should have a duration of 2-3 months, co the authors think that the difference in time might have altered the acceptability of the questionnaire.
2. In future trials would the authors recommend using both the IBS Symptom questionnaire and the IBS-QOL questionnaire.
3. How was the random sample created?
4. Did the questionnaire perform well in both genders?

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.