Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of the interRAI Pressure Ulcer Risk Scale (PURS) for use in Long-Term Care and Home Care Settings

Version: 2 Date: 25 August 2010

Reviewer: Jan Kottner

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you very much for reviewing this interesting manuscript again. It has improved considerably. There are only some points that need to be addressed:

Major Compulsory Revisions

(1) Analysis, first paragraph, last sentence: Please explain what exactly the c-statistic is (e.g. provide a source) and how do you planned to interpret results (What is "good", what is "bad").

(2) Analysis, second paragraph: What decision tree models do you used (Chi square based?)?

(3) Analysis, third paragraph: Did you replicate the scale construction or do you only applied your "scale" in other data sets?

(4) Results, second paragraph, third sentence: Please distinguish clearly between results reporting and interpretation. Furthermore, it is debatable whether the high correlations are "surprising" or not (see for instance DOI 10.2147/JMDH.S9286) but whether ADL scores are correlated with each other does not matter. Pressure ulcer risk scale scores, ADL scores and many more belong to the causal indicator model in the sense of Bollen and Lennox (1991) where internal consistency plays no role.

(5) Results, fourth paragraph, last sentence: I feel there is something wrong with the figures or there is something missing, e.g. text. The sentence ends with reference to Figure 1 and the next paragraph starts with Figure 3.

Minor Essential Revisions

(1) Study Overview, Phase 2: "Testing the predictive performance ..." of what, please add.

(2) Discussion: In the introduction you mentioned that there is no evidence that the application of the Braden and other pressure ulcer risk scales reduces pressure ulcer incidence or improves patient outcomes. The same may be also true for your newly developed score. I would add that to the discussion. I would also recommend adding that we need high quality diagnostic RCTs to investigate whether risk scores or prediction rules have any effect except for paperwork burden.

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

**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.