Reviewer's report

Title: Staging of mobility, transfer and walking functions of elderly persons based on the codes of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

Version: 4 Date: 14 January 2013

Reviewer: Lois Finch

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Review of MS: 1350002129704094

Staging of mobility, transfer and walking functions of elderly persons based on the codes of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

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General

This version of the paper is greatly improved and is very readable for the most part. There are very few minor changes that might improve the paper.

Introduction: The introduction is well done. Results are much improved and clear.

Minor Essential Revisions

1 The Abstract: This should be rewritten, especially the methods and results sections, to reflect the paper better.

For example; Methods: Thirty-three ICF codes were selected to test their fit to the Rasch model and their location. Of these ICF items, 4 were used to develop a Guttman-type scale of "basic mobility" and another 4 helped develop a "walking" scale to stage functional capability in the elderly. The participants were Japanese over 65 years chosen at random...............etc. Content validity was assessed. The results contain methods and the conclusions contain results. There is no mention of validity in the results. This scale has very good content validity and this should be brought out. The conclusion should contain a statement on validity—that construct validity needs to be confirmed before its ultimate use internationally.

Methods:

2 Page 7 line 145 could the authors add 33 before the ICF codes to link the thought back to line 144.

3 Page 8 line 155-156 might read better as’ The developmental sample was measured with the 33 ICF items.’

4 The Data analysis section should mention that the characteristics of the sample and contrasts between variables were performed with SPSS ......
5 Page 9 line183-186 needs to be clearer. ......fit statistics are sample size dependent and as the sample here is large all items would be significant and not fit the model unless a smaller random sample is selected. Thus......

6 Page 10 line195 ...scales one for basic mobility and one for walking. The next sentence is not clear.

Discussion:

7 page 12 line 255 ‘Some age categories...’ I am unsure of what this sentence is trying to state. The results section stated there was no DIF by age, thus I am unclear on the point being made in this sentence.

8 Figures the English in the figures needs to be consistent either a short form or written out e.g. Walking threshold 4 ‘does not use public transportation ,but can climb stairs’ or ‘does not use public transport but climbs stairs’

9 Appendix on the DIF does not need to be included as the text is much clearer now.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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