Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and external validation of a new PTA assessment scale

Version: 1 Date: 9 May 2012

Reviewer: Carolyn Benson

Reviewer’s report:

Well written. Methods and limitations clearly described. Proposed scale very practical for clinical use.

Discretionary Revisions:

Background, Paragraph 2. “in addition, test items that require remembering…” – the structure of this sentence makes it difficult to read

Background, paragraph 2. “three picture memory test” has been shown, instead of “showed”

Methods, paragraph 2. Extra control group with vascular central nervous system disease. Could you provide more details regarding this control group and why you chose controls with neurological disease versus more orthopedic patients with no neurological issues

Methods, paragraph 2. Add comma after “dementia”

Methods, paragraph 2. “not included during weekend” or “night shifts”

PTA assessment, paragraph 1. “started immediately post-injury”, I think immediately on presentation to ED is more accurate

Discussion, paragraph 5. I think higher age should be “older” age

Table 2. How is educational level defined?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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