Reviewer's report

Title: Use of manual and powered wheelchair in children with cerebral palsy: a cross-sectional study

Version: 4 Date: 24 July 2010

Reviewer: Jan Willem Gorter

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed the issues raised in my review (and comments of the other two reviewers) and have revised their manuscript accordingly.

I have two minor comments to be addressed.

In the introduction (second paragraph) and discussion the authors make a statement on the difference between capability and performance. The new sentence in the intro states “due to environmental factors...”. I agree that environmental factors are important as well as personal factors (choice, acceptance of disability) and body functions (fatigue) when it comes to use a manually propelled wheelchair, power wheelchair or none, both indoor and out.

In the methods section the data collection (four questions, three answer options) is now clarified. My understanding is that it is the assessor of the study (a PT) who answered the questions, not the child/person with CP or their parents. Is this correct? This should be made clear in the methods section and discussed in the discussion section as a limitation of the study. True performance in the home situation / daily life activities probably can be best measured by asking the person themselves or their parents/caregivers. Also suggestions for future studies looking into more detailed information on performance and use of wheelchairs could be given (use of questionnaires like the ASK, PEDI) and the role of environmental barriers (physical).

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

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'