Reviewer’s report

Title: The development and psychometric properties of a new scale to measure mental illness related stigma by health care providers: The Opening Minds Scale for Health Care Providers (OMS-HC)

Version: 1 Date: 3 February 2012

Reviewer: Wim van Brakel

Reviewer’s report:

The current version is much improved and has taken on board most of points for improvement that I mentioned previously. The authors have removed poorly performing items from the concept scale, which resulted in a nice, short (12-item) instrument.

Minor Essential Revisions

p.5, line 4-5: The definition of stigma used is very old fashioned, portraying stigma as an ‘attribute’ which suggests that stigma is a static phenomenon, while most current definitions (e.g. Link & Phelan, which authors elaborate on further down, or Weiss & Ramakrishna) emphasise its dynamic nature.

p.6, 3rd para: ‘problem of knowledge’ – this is not always ignorance or misinformation, but may simply be different belief systems, such as religious beliefs, as are held by the majority of the world’s population.

Discretionary Revisions

The authors might still consider to add results for floor and ceiling effects of the sub-scales, as well as the overall scale. In light of the two-factor structure found and the relatively low between-factor correlation, a remark about whether the overall scale score should or should not be used may be helpful to readers. The section on future research could include a few specific suggestions regarding further development of the instrument, such as determining the Minimally Important Change, Responsiveness, and Smallest Detectable Difference.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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