Author's response to reviews

Title: CANFOR Portuguese Version: validation study

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To BMC Psychiatry Editors

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of our research team I am pleased to send you this research paper and our request to be published in BMC Psychiatry.

This paper concerns the validation study of the Portuguese version of Camberwell Assessment of Needs – Forensic Version (CANFOR).

The original instrument is the first to address the view of forensic psychiatric services users and staff related to care needs.

Currently, the assessment of care needs in the context of prisons and other security facilities is one important task in order to deliver care and monitored needs in domains such as security, safety, health, and social inclusion.

The population sentenced to prison usually presents much more health, drug abuse and social problems than the general population; therefore, the imprisonment period could be considered an opportunity to deal with these disadvantages. One particularly vulnerable population is the mentally ill offenders, which along the problems mentioned before presents another, usually a chronic and disabling disorder.

The individual needs assessment is essential to inform any strategy concerning offenders and re-offending prevention, therefore the validation of tools used to identify those needs must be a first step in such policies.

Our paper presents the first Portuguese Version of CANFOR, one tool already validated in English and Spanish (Castellano) versions.

We anticipate that CANFOR, thanks to his construct validity and reliability, will soon be widespread and validated in other languages as well.

The Portuguese Version of CANFOR has the potential to be used in many Portuguese-speaking countries (e.g. Portugal, Brazil, Angola, etc.) counting 236 millions of speakers.

Taking all this into account we expect that you could consider our paper for publication.

Yours sincerely,

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