Reviewer's report

Title: CANFOR Portuguese Version: validation study

Version: 3 Date: 15 February 2013

Reviewer: Miao-Yu Y Tsai

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Comments for Authors
Referee Report on “CANFOR Portuguese Version: validation study”

The authors have made substantial revisions to their manuscript, in particular introducing the weighted kappa for ordinal outcomes. The manuscript is much improved. However, I still have a number of issues:

1. The authors responded that they use the Mann–Whitney U test to compare the values of BPRS scales scores from the group of subjects who scored “unmet need” with those from the group of subjects who scored “other score”, and therefore the two groups are independent. However, the authors mentioned that “it was performed an association analysis between the “unmet needs” scores of CANFOR domains, rated by the service users and the staff, and the BPRS scales scores. In order to emphasize the higher significant associations between unmet needs and BPRS’s scales......” on page 12 and “the analysis of convergence between CANFOR domains’ unmet needs and BPRS scales scores revealed interesting results.” on page 14. These sentences imply that the authors use the Mann–Whitney U test to compare the scores of CANFOR domains with the BPRS scales’ scores based on the same observations. Do I misunderstand the analysis of convergence? Besides, the organization of Tables 6 and 7 would mislead readers that the Mann–Whitney U test is used to compare the difference between the scores of CANFOR domains and the BPRS scales’ scores. A clear description for this analysis and reorganization of tables would have helped.

2. The term “service users” still appears many times and should be all corrected as “forensic psychiatric service users (FPSUs).

3. Page 12, “Tables 7 and 8” should be corrected as “Tables 6 and 7”.

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

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'