Reviewer's report

Title: Development and psychometric properties of a five-language multiperspective instrument to assess clinical decision making style in the treatment of people with severe mental illness (CDMS)

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2012

Reviewer: Georg Juckel

Reviewer's report:

The authors report on instrument development and psychometric properties of a new scale which measures general and specific preferences for decision making as well as preferences regarding the provision of information to the patient from the perspectives of people with severe mental illness and staff. The study is part of a larger project (CEDAR) funded by the FP7 programme. The study is highly deserving as little information exists on decision making in clinical psychiatry, especially not in larger samples. Instruments specialized in estimating decision making in psychiatry such as the one presented here do not exist so far. The sample size (588 people with severe mental illness and 213 mental health professionals) is large enough. Nevertheless, there are some minor points the authors may want to revise:

- The acronym ISPOR should be written in full extent.
- ‘other reasons’ are mentioned for three participants who were not included. What were those reasons? Pls. list.
- In the conclusions part, the authors state that validity could be demonstrated to some extent and needs further investigation. What do the authors suggest concerning this ‘further investigation’?

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'