Reviewer’s report

Title: The Maristan stigma scale: a standardized international measure of the stigma of schizophrenia and other psychoses

Version: 4 Date: 25 April 2014

Reviewer: ilanit Hasson-Ohayon

Reviewer’s report:

1- The definition of self-stigma seems not complete and lacks an acceptable reference. Self-stigma is not only the acceptance of the public stigma. It is an internalization process that affects identity.

2- Extensive professional editing is still needed before publication. The English should be improved and corrected and paragraphs should be better connected to each other. Few sentences seem not complete as well.

3- In page 9 it is written that there are four items for self-stigma subscale, and in other places (discussion for example), it is written that there are two. Which is correct?

4- It seems not suitable to start the discussion with a sub-title "main findings". This is more appropriate to the results section.

5- In the discussion it is written "Of the four factors we derived, self-stigma is the one found most commonly in other instruments to measure stigma". This sentence is confusing. Self-stigma is the internalization of the public stigma. It is not a type of stigma as the three other factors. It is the experience of the self.

6- The added statements on reliabilities in the limitations sections are not clear.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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 interest