Author's response to reviews

Title: Does health literacy measurement reach a consensus? - A systematic review of health literacy assessment tools.

Authors:

Sibel Vildan Altin (sibel.altin@uk-koeln.de)
Isabelle Finke (isabelle_finke@web.de)
Stephanie Stock (stephanie.stock@uk-koeln.de)

Version: 2
Date: 13 February 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Title: Does health literacy measurement reach a consensus? - A systematic review of health literacy assessment tools.

Statement of relevance:

Health Literacy is a core element of patient centered care and both are closely connected to effective health communication. Though health literacy research is witnessing an enormous growth of literature, information on the status quo of health literacy measurement and the reporting quality of articles dealing with the development of health literacy measurement tools is limited. The last review on the patterns of health literacy indices covered the period up to 2008 (Jordan et al. 2011) without examining if scholars developing tools considered the methodical recommendations of the academic circle requiring to consider a set of features an instrument has to cover when developing one. Consequently, scholars working in the field of health literacy are often confronted with a bright bouquet of studies reporting on the development of instruments measuring health literacy without being able to determine their relevance, reliability and applicability, feeling being “lost in transition”. Therefore, our review has a twofold function. It will allow an overview of the current state of play in health literacy measurement shedding light on the scope and type of recently developed tools as well as the reporting quality of articles dealing with the development of tools measuring health literacy. Further, it aims to answer one of the central questions in health literacy research by appraising if health literacy measurement is reaching a consensus. Responding to this question will help to move on to develop construct based, culture sensitive and internationally comparable instruments that help to move forward with the transition in a health literacy friendly health care systems.

Number of figures: 1 figure

Number of tables in text: 3 tables
Number of tables in appendix: 1 table

Number of words: 4540 words

The manuscript has not has been previously submitted to the journal.

We confirm that the manuscript has been submitted solely to the journal and that it is not published, in press, or submitted elsewhere.

We confirm that all the research meets the ethical guidelines, including adherence to the legal requirements of the study country.

We confirm that we have prepared the complete text.

We confirm to do not have a conflict of interest.
We confirm to have seen, read, and understood journal specific guidelines on copyright.

We conform that all co-authors are included in the manuscript and had an active part to finalize the final manuscript.

**Parts of the manuscript modified in revision:**

**Acknowledgements**

The authors thank Prof. Claus Wendt and Dr. Nadine Reibling who contributed towards the article by revising the drafting critically for important intellectual content. Further, we thank our colleague Stephanie Sangalang M.A. who provided medical writing services. The whole project as well as the manuscript preparation (medical writing services included) were funded by the Institute for Health Economics and Clinical Epidemiology at the University Hospital of Cologne.