Reviewer’s report

Title: The development of a fall risk assessment for demented nursing home patients in the Netherlands

Version: 2 Date: 16 August 2005

Reviewer: Sirkka-Liisa Kivelä

Reviewer’s report:

The authors describe the development of an instrument aimed for assessing the risk of falling among the demented living in nursing homes. The instrument is based on a literature review about risk factors of falls in the aged, and expert opinions have been used in selecting the items (risk factors) for the instrument. No trials to assess the usability of the instrument in practical work were performed. The sensitivity and specificity of the instrument in detecting the demented falling during the next few months after assessments with the instrument were not studied. The manuscript does not describe an actual research. It is a description of a developmental task.

The authors have done a literature review about risk factors of falls in the aged in long-term institutional care. This is the strength of the manuscript. Due to the lack of studies about risk factors of falls in the demented aged, there have been no possibilities to make any specific review about risk factors in this specific group.

The lack of an actual scientific basis is a pitfall in the manuscript.