Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the relationships between International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) constructs of Impairment, Activity Limitation and Participation Restriction in people with osteoarthritis prior to joint replacement.

Version: 4 Date: 16 February 2011

Reviewer: Helene L Soberg

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a good job in rewriting the article according to the reviewer comments. The text has both been simplified, become more precise and, hence, more available to the readers. A change of focus onto the pathways rather than on the "old" biomedical aspects was necessary.

However, I have a few comments:

Minor essential revisions:

Page 12. The Legend in Table 2 is incomplete since it contains both demographic and information about functioning within the I, A and P domains. Moreover you do not refer to table 2 in the result section at all, only in the discussion on page 17.

Page 13 last sentence: All latent constructs were significantly correlated with each other, with the strongest correlation between A and P ($r=0.75$), then I and A ($r=0.76$) and finally I and P ($r=0.59$). This measurement model provides support for I, A & P being independent constructs rather than a single general concept.

Please explain, is it because the correlation is low(?), below 0.90(?), or what is the criterion for stating that correlations above 0.70 are indicators of I and A, and A and P being independent constructs?

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

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