Reviewer's report

**Title:** A 5 item version of the Compliance Questionnaire for Rheumatology (CQR5) successfully identifies low adherence to DMARDs

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 April 2013

**Reviewer:** Colleen A McHorney

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. I laud the authors for their desire to shorten the CQR. However, I found the psychometric analyses to be rather unimaginative. The principal psychometric analyses involved exploratory and confirmatory factors analysis. It would have also been informative to use Item Response to cross-validate the findings derived from classical test methods. The sample size was rather small. The authors did not seem to give consideration to features of item score distributions in selecting items, i.e., item means and standard deviations and ceiling and floor effects. What was the ratio of the first to second eigenvalue? It would have been informative to present the results of the exploratory factor analysis in a table. It is not transparent how eight items were eliminated which "lead to a gradual increase in the KMO and reduction in the number of factors." If the KMO indicated a weak factor structure, did this not suggest that perhaps alternative methods of item reduction should be pursued? The manuscript should provide more transparent details on the regression model given by de Klerk so the methods and results of the manuscript can stand on its own. The CRQ items are worded very awkwardly.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.