Reviewer's report

Title: Measures and procedures utilized to determine the added value of microprocessor-controlled prosthetic knee joints: a systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 15 July 2013

Reviewer: Friedbert Kohler

Reviewer's report:

The authors have to a large extent addressed the comments from the initial review. There are a number of minor but important outstanding issues.

The authors have included an illustration on the process of assigning the ICF code to each of the outcome parameters (Figure 1). This explains the process, however, there are standardised ICF linkage rules, which are well established and have been followed in numerous other papers. These should be mentioned and a comment on why a different procedure was used should be included.

The authors have continued to include the eight so-called areas of interest. If it is possible to reference them to any other published paper, this should be done. If this is not possible, a comment should be included that these interest groups were developed by them.

The list of references includes several papers by the same authors, with the same number of patients, with the same average age and age ranges. Presumably, these papers are papers on the same sub set of patients. Therefore the 810 participants as described by the authors on page 9 will probably not really be 810 participants but will be a smaller number depending on how many of the studies by Haffner, Teven and Kaufman have used the same sample of patients. This should at least be acknowledged in either the results or the discussion, as it would be difficult to deconstruct at this stage of the paper.

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:

Since December 2012 I have an ongoing contract for funding for and ICF related project from otto Bock and Ossur. This does not contribute to a conflict of interest in relations to the review of this paper.