Reviewer’s report

Title: A Structural Model of Impairment and Functional Limitation in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Version: 2 Date: 27 September 2004

Reviewer: Gerold Stucki

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Specific Comments for revision to the authors
1. It would be advisable to introduce a sentence or a paragraph on the requirements for using SEM in the Analysis section.
2. The fit statistics should be presented in the Results section of the paper. The reader has to understand why the authors came to the conclusion that "the proposed model's fit to the empirical data was fair to good".
3. The WHO model of functioning, disability, and health approved in 2001 is a model that is gaining importance in medicine and that is starting to be used in rheumatology. Therefore, the results of this study should be discussed in relation to the WHO model.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: None