Reviewer's report

Title: Minimal clinically detectable and important changes for pain in patients with nonspecific neck pain

Version: 3 Date: 19 November 2007

Reviewer: Julie Fritz

Reviewer's report:

General

I would like to thank the authors for their efforts in revising this manuscript. Many of my previous concerns have been addressed.

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

My primary concern that remains relates to the terminology related to "MDC" used in this manuscript. In the Introduction section the authors characterize minimum detectable change (MDC) as a method for examining the MCIC that involves determining a cutoff score above which there is a greater than 95% chance that "real change" has occurred. I disagree with the authors characterization that this is a method for examining the MCIC. THis analysis is a different construct (statistically detecable change vs. change that is important to the patient). This terminology needs to be clarified and used consistently in the manuscript.

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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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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