Reviewer’s report

Title: Configural frequency analysis as a method of determining patients' preferred decision-making roles in dialysis

Version: 2 Date: 17 March 2010

Reviewer: Ian Watt

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This was an interesting paper clearly written on a topical area. I have a few minor/discretionary revisions to suggest and outline these below.

1. It is stated in the discussion that "a physician maybe in a position to have a positive influence on the trust of the patient if the physician was to undergo a simple change of behaviour". Whilst there is a simplicity in what is being suggested, I feel the reality is far from simple in terms of influencing physicians to make such changes and clearly identifying what the nature of such changes should be.

2. The discussion pays little attention to the potential study weaknesses and issues of generalisability. Whilst there is some coverage of these issues in the "conclusions", I feel it would benefit the paper if these could be moved to the discussion and perhaps be expanded on.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests