Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 10 August 2010

Reviewer: Jan Florin

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I find that the authors have made significant changes to the manuscript in accordance with given comments, or at least have answered satisfactory to the comments. This has improved the manuscript substantially, but there are a few remarks I still want to make.

1. I still think the aim could have been stated more distinctly. The change from "attempt" to seek" didn't add much information.

2. There is still a lack of statistical measurements to back up the statements that the patients in the exploratory and the confirmatory groups differed from the overall sample regarding age, educational level, need for information, and gender? The use of the wording “…distinguishable from patients in the overall sample…” leads the mind to think that there is a difference between groups. It is also conveyed by the formulation in the discussion “Since “need for information” was the only attribute that was marginally higher in the exploratory and confirmatory subsamples…”. There is no statistical analysis to back the notion of a difference, that is my point. If it is merely a difference in figures without being statistically supported, it is not to be considered as a difference.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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