Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring the quality of patients’ goals and action plans: development and validation of a novel tool

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2012

Reviewer: Carol Bennett

Reviewer's report:

This well-written manuscript describes the development and initial validation of a tool to measure the quality of patients’ goals and action plans for diabetes management.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods

“To identify criteria that defined high-quality goals and action plans, and establish content validity, we undertook a review of articles specifically related to goal-setting in the context of diabetes.” How were the articles identified, and which articles specifically were reviewed?

“The review resulted in ten criteria overall…” What process was used to identify the 10 criteria?

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods

“This study was approved by an Institutional Review Board.” Identify the Institutional Review Board.

“Effective goals for diabetes care required that four criteria…” This should be three?

Discretionary Revisions

Results

For clarity, recommend changing “On average, the 85 participants were…” to “Overall, the 85 participants were…”

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.