Reviewer's report

Title: A Decision Aid for COPD patients considering inhaled steroid therapy: development and before and after pilot testing

Version: 2 Date: 25 April 2007

Reviewer: France Legare

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)

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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)

The authors have responded to most of my comments. However, to my following comment: “My understanding was that in the present study, the researchers used the existing structure of an existing generic decision aid produced with the Ottawa Decision Support Framework but did not fully operationalize the framework itself.”, the authors responded that: “As clarified above, the ODSF is a theory for guiding patients making health or social decisions. Although it serves as a framework for developing decision aids, it does not include a generic decision aid. Our decision aid is unique in that it combines a number of features that prior or other decision aids to not include (e.g. the measurement of values and preferences and the decision making suggestion).”

I am not sure that I agree. I would advice the authors to review the Ottawa Personal Decision Guide (OPDG that is designed for any health-related and/or social decision. This generic decision aid can help people assess their decision making needs, plan the next steps, and track their progress in decision making (see http://decisionaid.ohri.ca/decguide.html).

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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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have trained with the author of the Ottawa Decision Support Framework, Dr Annette O'Connor and therefore, used this framework as well as its generic decision aid in some of my studies. However, I have no financial competing interests.