Reviewer's report

Title: The Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care measure: acceptability, reliability and validity in United Kingdom patients with long-term conditions

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2012

Reviewer: Julie Schmittdiel

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper that makes a solid contribution to the literature on the PACIC. Please see my comments below.

Minor Essential Revisions.

1. The authors should provide a clearer framework for the psychometric validation work that they plan to perform in the introduction section, so that the reader has a better idea of what constructs will be examined and the importance of understanding these constructs of the PACIC for its use within the UK population. These items are laid out in the Methods, but not in the context of an overall framework.

2. Please provide more information in the Methods section on the 'Acceptability' construct. Some very interesting information on this is provided in the Discussion, but what 'acceptability' would mean in this context and why missingness measures (or does not) measure it would be helpful.

3. I have a similar comment for the 'Reliability' section of the Methods - what are the authors exploring specifically, and what Cronbach alpha would they consider adequate in their hypothesis testing?

4. The first paragraph of the Discussion section begins to lay out a strong policy rationale for this validation work, which I think is important; the authors should enhance their discussion of policy implications in both the Introduction and in the Conclusion sections.

5. The Discussion section's interpretation of the lack of a 5 factor structure is very interesting, but I am curious as to whether this finding might have to do with the new population being studied (which is unique in terms of the application of the PACIC). I suggest the authors address this issue in the Discussion.

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 declare that I have no competing interests.