Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of physicians' professional performance: An iterative development and validation study of multisource feedback instruments

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Reviewer: Jocelyn Lockyer

Reviewer's report:

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Review of Evaluation of physicians' professional performance: An iterative development and validation study of multisource feedback instruments

Methods

Minor recommendation:

a) The authors may wish to provide a rationale for drawing on the FP/GP version of PAR rather than the one designed for medical/surgical specialties.

b) The authors are very explicit in stating their approach to their first objective (initial psychometric properties). They are less explicit re the other two objectives. I would encourage the authors to add the necessary sentences to make the association between objectives and statistical analysis explicit.

c) The authors should reference their previous work re the reliability formula or make that section more explicit.

Results

Minor recommendations:

a) The header 'factors influencing rating' might be changed to sociodemographic variables influencing rating. The term 'factors' might be confused with the factors that emerged from the factor analysis.

b) In the text related to the header, 'determining the minimum sample size required', the authors should provide the actual reference number to 'in a previous article'.

c) Revision of sentence in section, 'determining the minimum sample size…'. Sentence beginning 'When we would apply a stricter…. Should read 'When a stricter reliability coefficient of 0.70 is applied, as many as…'

Discussion

Minor recommendations:

a) Authors should discuss their numbers required in light of other literature.

b) Authors should substantiate their statement 'we believe the results of the residual variance are overestimated in nested datasets'.
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:

Nothing to declare.