Reviewer's report

Title: Instruments for assessing the risk of falls in acute hospitalized patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Version: 1 Date: 13 December 2012

Reviewer: Edgar Vieira

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

- The authors seem to have confused and mixed risk assessment and risk reduction/intervention initiatives. These should be evaluated separately. One review would evaluate the predictive validity of falls risk assessment tools and the other would evaluate the effectiveness of using risk assessments in reducing the rates of falls.

- I am familiar with this literature and that there are a lot more than 14 studies eligible to this review. Many are were not even on the list of excluded studies.

Minor Essential Revisions

- Revise the writing structure; use more active voice and direct sentences.

- Include the citations for the claims, statements and previous studies’ data presented in each sentence.

- Minimize the use of acronyms.

- Request a native English speaker with scientific writing experience to review the manuscript.

- The search strategies used in each of the databases should be presented as an appendix.

- The way the results are presented is not conducive to use by the reader. Try to present your data in a way that it is easy for the reader to get the main points. It should be user friendly and facilitate decision making on the choice of risk assessment tools.

- The authors should compare their finding with those of other recent reviews and meta-analyses that arrived at very similar conclusions. It is unclear what this review adds that was not previously known.

Discretionary Revisions

- State the objectives more succinctly.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.