Reviewer's report

Title: Developing a questionnaire to identify perceived barriers for implementing the Dutch physical therapy COPD clinical practice guideline

Version: 1 Date: 8 November 2012

Reviewer: Anna Gagliardi

Reviewer's report:

Hello:

Many thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript which describes the development of a questionnaire that could be used to identify barriers of guideline adoption and inform implementation planning. Barrier identification has been recognized as an important step in implementation planning yet we have little guidance or tools by which to achieve it. While this barriers questionnaire pertains to COPD guidelines, the findings are relevant to all guideline developers, implementers and researchers who could potentially adapt the underlying concepts to assess barriers for other types of guidelines. Communication and relevance of the findings could be enhanced with the following recommended edits that will clarify and elaborate on key ideas and results.

MAJOR COMPULSORY

Results, Barriers and facilitators – elaborate on these details so the reader who does not consult the tables better understands the range of issues

Discussion, Construct of the questionnaire – this content reads as if it belongs in the Results section

Discussion, Implications – elaborate on how the findings of this study help us understand how to tailor interventions and plan implementation, and what ongoing research is needed in this area

MINOR ESSENTIAL

Background - move ideas in first sentence of paragraph two to the end of the first sentence and elaborate by describing evidence that therapists are not complying with guidelines and, hence, justifying that further investigation of why they are not doing so is needed.

Background – focus paragraph two on the fact that we know that guidelines are not automatically used due to multiple barriers, and elaborate on this idea by noting that implementation strategies are needed but they need not address and cannot address all possible barriers, which is why assessment of barriers is necessary and useful.

Background – paragraph three, models have been used as frameworks for implementation planning by identifying barriers...Elaborate on methods noted...
(intervention mapping, behaviour change wheel) and how they are informed by models/theories and/or why these methods may be limited…elaborate with examples of interviews or questionnaires (ie. nursing BARRIERS questionnaire, organizational capacity for change questionnaires) but note that these are usually ad hoc surveys developed for specific circumstances and therefore not valid, limiting their usefulness (which further justifies the need for your research)

Background – paragraph five, explain why the two questionnaires need to be combined


Methods – use a shorter means by which to refer to the two surveys and consistently use that terminology, for example, Peters implementation barriers and Pisters implementation attitude

Methods – Construction, explain how additional items were generated

Methods – Construction, To assess face validity the draft questionnaire was sent to three experts who were asked to offer suggestions from improved content, wording and flow of questions.

Methods – Data collection, explain what you mean by consecutively distributed, and by consultation with network coordinators…did they distribute the survey on your behalf?

Methods – Data analysis, paragraph four – Barriers and facilitators of?....were calculated using...

Discussion – Relevance of the questionnaire, paragraph two – comment on the discrepancy between general support for the guideline yet identification of numerous barriers

Discussion – Relevance of the questionnaire, paragraph three – elaborate on how the findings inform implementation planning

Discussion, Methodological considerations – consider adding additional potential limitations: length of the survey which prohibited/limited responses, its format and delivery and how it was to be returned, which were not clearly described in Methods

**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:

The first author is a Board member of the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) and in that context serves as a liaison to G-I-N for my research group that is studying guideline implementability. However, his role is knowledge sharing and does not confer upon us any special privileges, financial or otherwise.