Reviewer's report

Title: The Arabic version of the hospital survey on patient safety culture: a psychometric evaluation in a Palestinian sample

Version: 1 Date: 6 November 2012

Reviewer: Jason Etchegaray

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript presents an interesting attempt to examine an Arabic version of AHRQ's HSOPSC. I have a few concerns noted below.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Did the researchers conduct a back-translation (from Arabic to English) prior to using the Arabic version of the survey? The back-translation process is a standard part of translating surveys and the researchers need to explain whether this was included and if not, why not? I am concerned that if they did not do this, their results of differences between the two versions of the survey might be due to the fact that this step was omitted.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Were participants incentivized for completing this survey?
2) Did you look at different factor structures and/or reliability estimates by examining these statistics based on type of provider?
3) Did you conduct a CFA on the whole sample and when that did not work as intended, conduct EFA on half the sample and CFA on the other half of the sample? If so, why not just conduct the EFA after the CFA did not work and stop there? Conducting a second CFA seems like you are conducting one too many CFAs on this dataset.
4) What are the descriptive statistics for the items? Were there any floor or ceiling effects and did these impact the results in any manner?

I think you have an interesting start to the manuscript and I need more details to fully understand what you did.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests