Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Assessing the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ), German language Version in Swiss University Hospitals - A Validation study

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 4 December 2012

**Reviewer:** Barbara Hoffmann

**Reviewer’s report:**

Review

Most of the remaining remarks have been answered now quite satisfactorily. Still, the main comment is left unresponded and I would again recommend this aspect be reviewed by an expert in the field of psychometrics: Is the procedure of collapsing a symmetric five-point-likert scale into a asymmetric three-point-scale a valid procedure when conducting a confirmatory factor analysis. If MPLus is suitable for skewed responses why did the scale have to be collapsed at all? Unfortunately, the question how normalisation procedures failed had not been answered yet. Could a procedure of transformation of a skewed scale into a normalised scale be an alternative?

Other minor remarks (discretionary revisions):

Page 15, second paragraph: “This may have contributed to the issues we identified with factor loading for some items.” What do the authors want to say and which issues are meant?

A few sentences further down below: “Had we been able to utilize all response choices, the findings may have been different. This may have been related to organizational cultural characteristics rather than the size of the sample.” What may have been related to organizational cultural characteristics? Are differences between the US-American and the Suisse hospital characteristics meant?

Recommendations: Focus group methodology are mentioned in order to modify problematic items. As I have understood the methods section this measures have been applied already in terms of cognitive testing.

Conclusions, second sentence: …the initial step IN (?) establishing the psychometric properties.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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