Reviewer's report

Title: Composite scores as an alternative to global ratings in patient experience surveys; a comparison of four methods

Version: 2 Date: 9 August 2013

Reviewer: Eliza Wong

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions is required.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The research questions are well defined.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The methods appropriate but the statistical analysis should be further elaborated. For example, any scientific criteria for acceptable ICC level and correlation with supporting reference.

3. Are the data sound?
It is well shown. Please also show the data collection procedure and response rate and representative of data (proportion of surveyed nursing homes in Netherland). Any subgroup analysis accordingly level/nature of nursing homes which could be one of evidence to check whether the reliability and validity of strategy could be affected by it.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Should provide more information on the sample, sample pool and sampling method which is critical to consider the representative of finding.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Would be better to provide the scientific support for criteria to compare four strategies.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Lack of information on sample size estimation, sample pool, sampling method and data collection procedure which are all critical component for a scientific study.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes.
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
lack of information on sample e.g. response rate, data collection method and 
representative of sample pool

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that i have no conflict of interest with the authors