Reviewer’s report

Title: Relationship of Literacy and Heart Failure in Adults with Diabetes

Version: 3 Date: 18 May 2007

Reviewer: Barbara J Riegel

Reviewer’s report:

General

Overall, this revision is very good. The manuscript is far clearer. The writing is beautiful. I still have significant difficulty with the stated purpose of testing prevalence, as prevalence is defined as the measure of a condition in a population at a given point in time. It is calculated as the number of cases divided by the population at large. That is not the analysis that you did.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

On page 5 please clarify that the limited literacy results provided (27% for those with both DM and HF and 15% for those with only HF) was an unadjusted analysis.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

I have some difficulty with the decision to add 0 points to the comorbidity questionnaire for diabetes because this limits the ability of other investigators to compare their comorbidity levels to yours. I would recommend that you recalculate these scores and change them in the manuscript just for future comparison sake. Also, you may want to clarify that the test-retest data on page 4 were obtained by the instrument authors. With the new paragraph, it looks like these are your tests of the SCQ.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.