Reviewer's report

Title: Development and validation of the Accommodation and Enabling Scale for Eating Disorders (AESED) for caregivers in eating disorders

Version: 1 Date: 8 May 2009

Reviewer: Renee Hoste

Reviewer's report:

The purpose of this study was to develop and validate a measure of the extent to which family members and caregivers accommodate problematic behaviors associated with eating disorders. The authors used previous research on OCD as a jumping-off point for their new measure, and provided convincing arguments regarding the need and utility of a measure such as the AESED.

This is an important area of research and I believe this study would be of interest to others in the field of eating disorders, and perhaps also to those interested in caregiving for people with other psychiatric disorders.

I have several concerns about the study, however.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. My primary concern is that the manuscript is a bit unwieldy. There are several parts of the study, such as the distance intervention program, that are included for an important and valid reason (i.e., pre-post changes) but are glossed-over in the paper. I would have liked to have had more information on the intervention program in order to have a better idea of the areas of change targeted by the program, and how they correspond to the items on the AESED. In general there is a great deal of information in this manuscript, and I think it could probably be split into at least two different papers.

Minor Essential Revisions:
2. Pg. 11, “…caregivers with their own lifetime history of eating problems (current obesity or AN or BN not diagnosed when younger).” What about AN or BN that was diagnosed when the caregiver was younger?
3. Pg. 11, “The average number of contact hours was converted to a binary measure…” Why was 21 used as the cutoff number?
4. “Caregivers” is spelled “Carergivers” throughout the paper.
5. The quality of written English is problematic at times throughout the paper and needs to be addressed before publication.

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

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.