Reviewer’s report

Title: Relationship between interRAI HC and the ICF: Opportunity for operationalizing the ICF

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Reviewer: Joseph E Gaugler

Reviewer’s report:

I thought this was a strong and interesting paper, and has important clinical applications. It is, for the most part, well-written and has important implications for developing integration among assessment and widely used coding strategies to assess disability over time. Specific comments are below:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

-p. 7: Please discuss the 46% agreement rate; that seems rather low. Why such a low agreement rate?

-Codes covered by the interRAI HC and not the ICF appear well-documented, but were there instances where the opposite occurred?

-In addition to clinical application, a section in the Discussion on potential future research directions using this mapping approach would be helpful.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Several areas of the manuscript could use greater editing and attention to detail. For example, in the -Abstract: "The objective of this study was to examine the relationship between the interRAI HC (home care) assessment and the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) and the interRAI HC (home care) assessment." This is redundant. In addition, on p. 6 "The ICF codes given meaning with the addition of qualifiers to denote the extent or severity of a problem." This is not clear. There is an extra period on p. 7. Finally, on p. 10: "As the WHO puts it, « the road leading to health for all passes through information and a "system of health statistics” should both capture the current state of theory in the health domain and provide a framework for health information. Such a "health information template” can serve as a pedagogical device, a comprehensive classification system and a means for care planning [27]." Where does this quote begin or end?

Please review this paper and address these and any other grammatical and/or editing errors.

-Excellent description of ICF
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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