Reviewer's report

Title: Adjuncts or adversaries to shared decision making? Applying the Integrative Model of Behavior to the role and design of decision support technologies in health care interactions

Version: 1 Date: 2 November 2008

Reviewer: Daniela Simon

Reviewer's report:

This article deals with the theoretical foundation of the development and evaluation of patient decision aids and thus represents an important and timely issue in the field of shared decision-making. Furthermore it takes a look on the effects of patient decision aids on patients’ interactional behaviors, an important aspect which has not been too much in the focus of studies on the effects of patient decision aids yet.

I have a few suggestions for minor essential revisions of this publication:

1) On page 3 in the background section the authors mention the existence of a measure for quantifying SDM. Later in the paper the measurement burden of this instrument is discussed. The reader might get the impression that there is only one measurement instrument for assessing SDM and this is has the format of an observational measure. As there are several self-report instruments which have been developed to assess aspects of SDM, this should also be mentioned in order to give a complete picture (which can also include the limitations of both self-report and observational approaches) on measurement possibilities for SDM. (Reviews by Dy 2007 and Simon et al. 2007 might be helpful).

2) The integrative model of behavior change is described and applied in this publication. The authors also state that there is a large body of literature on behavior and behavior change in the field of psychology. Yet, it is not completely evident why the authors chose this model for their work. They mention that the strength of the constructs included in the model have been documented in several studies. One might assume that constructs of other models have also been tested and documented. It would be interesting to read a bit more about the specific advantage of this theoretical approach. Or should it rather be regarded as one example of applying a behavioral model to SDM?

3) The authors describe how to measure the constructs of the integrative model and propose certain items which can be used and adapted to each specific context. In the summary at the end of the paper they furthermore suggest that the items can be used as a standardized method for assessing determinants of communication behaviors.

It is described how items can be summed to a score but I could not find a remark on psychometric issues of these scores which would increase the scientific quality of the suggested measurement approach. At least a comment on the
internal consistency of the sum scores would be necessary. If nothing is known yet, then this should be mentioned, so it is clear to the reader that the authors have taken psychometrics into account for their proposal of a standardized method.

Taking these recommendations for minor revision into account I recommend the publication of this article.

**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.