Reviewer's report

Title: Functional assessments used by occupational therapists with older adults at risk of activity and participation limitations: A systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2012

Reviewer: Karine Toupin April

Reviewer's report:

General comments:
This protocol is adequately designed but could be described in a more thorough manner. The subject is important and will be of interest to people in this field of work.

Specific comments
Title:
I would personally mention the term measurement properties in the title as it is the main interest of this protocol and systematic review. Also, the term "measurement properties" is used by the authors of the COSMIN checklist.

Methods:
I feel authors should justify why they decided to only include functional assessments that were used in RCTs. Why not include all assessments tested for validity even if they are reported in an observational or validation study?

I did not have access to the Appendix 1. The search strategy for Medline should be appended to the protocol.

I feel that the initial title and abstract screening should be done by two independent investigators and not just one. The authors should follow the PRISMA checklist.

The authors should also specify the goals of the COSMIN checklist and, if they are using the Terwee criteria as well, should explain the differences between those two instruments.

Answers to the questions:

1. Is the study design appropriate?
Yes, I think the study design is appropriate. However, it is not clear whether the authors will use the Terwee criteria and how it is different from the COSMIN checklist.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
Yes, if the search strategy is appended to the protocol. There should be a better justification of the inclusion criteria.

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
Yes, although the authors should describe in more detail the information that will be presented in their results.

4. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes.