Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 23 August 2012

Reviewer: Karine Toupin April

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately answered most of the queries. However, here are a few points that should be clarified further. These are discretionary revisions.

1. I feel that the authors' justification for deciding only to include functional assessments that were used in RCTs is not strong enough. The authors should verify and report whether the quality of the functional assessments reported in RCTs is higher than those used in observational or validation studies, and not only compare them to assessments developed in-house for clinical practice. My rationale is that some researchers may have recently validated an assessment that is not yet included in an RCT but has been discussed in another type of study (e.g. validation study, observational study).

2. The terms “measurement properties” and “psychometric assessment” are both used in the protocol, but I feel it would be better to keep the same term throughout. Personally, I would use the first, but the authors may decide otherwise. Also, the distinction between methodological quality of the studies and measurement properties of the assessments should be better explained. Dr. Caroline Terwee has explained these as, respectively, the process to determine measurement properties (i.e. methods of the validation study), and the results of this process (e.g. validity coefficients).

1. Is the study design appropriate?
Yes.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
Yes.

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
Yes.

4. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes.
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.