Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identifying common impairments in frail and dependent older people: Validation of the COPE assessment for non-specialised health workers in low resource primary health care settings

Authors:

    jotheeswaran AT (jothees.at@iiphh.org)
    Amit Dias (dr_amit_dias@yahoo.com)
    Ian Philp (Ian.Philp@hey.nhs.uk)
    John Beard (beardj@who.int)
    Vikram Patel (vikram.patel@lshtm.ac.uk)
    Martin Prince (martin.prince@kcl.ac.uk)

Version: 2 Date: 20 April 2015

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Submission date: 15.04.2015
Address to Editors:
Editor and Co-Editor
BMC Geriatrics

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled: “Identifying common impairments in frail and dependent older people: Validation of the COPE assessment for non-specialized health workers in low resource primary health care settings ”, for consideration for publication as an original article.

Our research is original, second in the series we are submitting to BMC geriatrics. This is the first attempt (in Low-resourced health care settings) to validate a geriatric assessment administered by community health workers functioning in public health care system in low and middle-income countries. In the earlier paper we submitted to BMC geriatrics, we demonstrated that community health workers can be easily trained to identify frail dependent older people. Further, in this study, we developed a comprehensive multidimensional assessment for community health workers for identification of specific impairments in frail and or dependent older people and examined concurrent validity against clinical assessments carried out by physicians working in the same local public health system. We also explored the feasibility and acceptability of this approach.

We conclude that, the COPE is a feasible and effective tool for the identification of specific impairments in frail dependent older people in the community. Those identified are likely to be confirmed as having clinically relevant problems by clinicians working in the same service, and the COPE may be particularly effective at targeting attention upon those with the most substantial unmet needs.

Ageing well is an emerging public health priority for many low and middle-income countries, and the focus for this year’s World Health Report. There is a growing interest among clinical practitioners, researchers, and policymakers in frailty as a conceptual framework for advancing knowledge and practice in this area. We thought that publication of this research paper in BMC Geriatrics would be both timely and impactful in raising awareness of the salience of these issues to the two-thirds of the world’s older people that live in resource-poor low and middle income countries.

This manuscript has not been previously published and is not under consideration in the same or substantially similar form in any other peer-reviewed journals.

All authors listed have contributed sufficiently to the study and in the preparation of this manuscript to be included as authors, and only all those who are qualified to be authors are listed in the author by line. To our best knowledge, no conflict of interest, financial or other, exists. We have included acknowledgements, conflicts of interest, and funding sources after the discussion.

Sincerely,

Corresponding author

Dr.A.T.Jotheeswaran