Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Early inpatient rehabilitation for acutely hospitalized older patients: A systematic review of outcome measures

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 02 Mar 2019

**Reviewer:** Else Marie Damsgaard

**Reviewer's report:**

Through this extensive and carefully evaluation of the literature the authors examine primary outcome measures that have been used in randomized controlled trials on early rehabilitation in older hospitalized patients. The aim was to evaluate the effects of matching on the main findings in these randomized controlled trials.

The authors identify 24 studies and a total of 33 different outcome measures which were grouped into six categories. The review highlights the importance of being very specific in choosing outcome measures as this is crucial to reveal benefits to early rehabilitation. The authors conclude that outcome measures that specifically matched the results of intervention were more likely to document effect of the intervention.

This review is a very helpful paper as it shows us the importance of choosing the right outcome measures. However, the paper is heavy reading and far too long. Reduction of the overwhelming number of details would sharpen the message, as well as a reduction of repetitions.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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