Reviewer’s report

Title: ‘Modified STOPP-START criteria for Sri Lanka’; Translating to a resource limited healthcare setting by Delphi consensus

Version: 0 Date: 29 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The authors have conducted a very practical and yet innovative study. They
have thoughtfully considered the practice context, social setting, and the needs of a particular population. I found this interesting and insightful in that it could be applied to other countries. The authors have noted the main gap, which is not having a validation or application of the tool, only the theory completed.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
The terminology should be "older adults" or "older persons" instead of 'elderly', as many journal editors are only accepting this terminology.

It would be helpful to explain in the Results why no new criteria were added. Are there not some unique aspects relating to practice that the STOPP/START didn't address, but would be relevant in Sri Lanka?

For the Key points - I would note that one point could be that not all criteria in the published tools are appropriate for all settings or systems.

Explain why Beers criteria were not considered vs just STOPP/START.

Explain why the opening of the Background is about medication errors versus appropriate prescribing or deprescribing. Medications errors should be defined.

Results - the criteria are small n vs total criteria (capital N). The page 9 lines 179-185 are important to include but may be better formatted into a table.

Discussion - provide context if the tools are available only to healthcare professionals, or if in Sri Lanka patients also access these types of tools? How do you plan for your new tool to be disseminated, and used by healthcare professionals?

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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