Reviewer’s report

Title: Involvement of the multidisciplinary team and outcomes in inpatient rehabilitation among patients with inflammatory rheumatic disease

Version: 0 Date: 17 Nov 2015

Reviewer: Cornelia Van Den Ende

Reviewer's report:

This study documents the changes in patient-reported outcome measures in patients with various rheumatic diseases admitted for an inpatient rehabilitation program. The study has an observational design.

The manuscript is not well written and therefore on some points difficult to comprehend.

The relevance of the study should be better argued in the introduction section. Also, the hypotheses should be made more explicit. In the results sections findings on several implicit research questions are reported that are not introduced in the introduction section (e.g. the association of the number of disciplines with health outcomes; the association of the number of disciplines consulted prior to admission and baseline values; the influence of diagnosis on health outcomes; the influence of a specific discipline on health outcomes).

As pointed out by the authors, the reasons for decision for inpatient rehabilitation are not documented, also the choices for the composition of the multidisciplinary team per patient is not clear. This makes it difficult to weigh and interpreter the findings.

The discussion section has many redundancies. Furthermore; the generalisibility of the findings should be discussed.

Minor points

The number of disciplines involved are grouped in tertiles; while only 2 groups are used in the analysis: the correct number of patients per group should be added in the table.
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.
Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

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:
Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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