Reviewer’s report

Title: Validation of the German Revised Version of the Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice Questionnaire (PCEP-GR)

Version: 0  Date: 07 May 2017

Reviewer: Rosemary Ann Frey

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review Validation of the German Revised Version of the Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice Questionnaire (PCEP-GR). Overall the study is well-presented. I list below a few points to enhance the presentation:

Background:

Paragraph 3: It would be useful to present a few more details concerning the focus of previous measures: knowledge, attitudes, confidence etc.

Methods: "In order to evaluate the success of the program,

a questionnaire was developed by means of expert ratings of palliative care professionals concerning relevant aspects of competence in palliative care. It was developed for the measurement of pre and post competence in palliative care." - Please provide further details concerning the number of palliative care professionals.

"The item selection was theory based"- Please explain what theories formed the basis of the item selection.

Results

Do you mean you assessed the content and face validity of the items when stating you assessed the practicability and ease-of-use?

How was the representative sample selected?

Please explain why you have selected PCA rather than EFA to examine the measure? EFA has been used to explore the possible underlying factor structure of a set of measured variables without imposing any preconceived structure on the outcome ( see Child, 1990)

Did you assess discriminant and convergent validity for the measure?
Discussion - why were demographic characteristics 'unavailable'?

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

No

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal