Reviewer’s report

Title: National profile of foot orthotic provision in the United Kingdom, Part 1: Practitioners and scope of practice

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2017

Reviewer: Sarah Curran

Reviewer’s report:

This is a timely, interesting and much needed study that explores the profile of foot orthoses provision in the UK. In general, I have little to comment on the content and structure of the article and study. It is well written and contains the relevant and appropriate information. The background section sets the scene appropriately with a clear aim stated. On page 8, lines 134 - 136, the authors make reference to 'In this first paper…' - for context and to avoid assumptions made by the reader, it may be worth the authors considering adding a further sentence (or amending the current sentence) to state that this is the first of a series of papers which seeks to explore… Reference to this should also be made in the abstract (even though part 1 is stated in the title of the paper).

The methods used by the authors are appropriate with the use of Quirkos for analysis. The results section was easy to follow and is supported by figures and tables. In terms of the tables however, they are large and whilst contain pertinent information, key information could be missed. For example, table 3 could be split into 3 smaller tables enabling the reader to digest the information presented. This is only a suggestion for readability. The discussion section is well stated and provides a range of considerations based on the results obtained. The limitations highlighted by the authors are open and honest. Whilst comparisons between professions are covered in separate papers (stated by authors for example on page 26, lines 551 - 552) in the conclusion it may be worth the authors considering introducing the second part of the paper/study.

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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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