Author’s response to reviews

Title: Development and Psychometric properties of a Self-care Behaviors Scale (SCBS) among Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Many thanks to the reviewers for their comments. All the changes in the manuscript are highlighted in Yellow.

Reviewer reports:

Tanja Stamm (Reviewer 1): This is an interesting and important study on a new instrument for measuring self-care behaviour. The study aims are timely and relevant. The method is appropriately chosen. I have a few comments:

Abstract result section, method and results sections of the main body of the manuscript: In my opinion, the text could be more logical and better structured, e.g. factor analysis is a part of the statistical analysis in my opinion. The section on measures could be better readable with more sub-titles. I would suggest to check every sentence again.

Many thanks for this good comment. The paragraphs and the subtitles for Methods section were reorganized.

Overall: as in my last review, I am sure about the definition of self-care. According to the WHO International Classification of Disability and Health, some of the issues included in the questionnaire might not be self-care, e.g. management of pain, smoking, using heat for self-treatment, talking with persons who are sympathetic. However, the authors have underpinned their theory with literature, so I think this is fine now.

Thanks
Recruitment of patients: were all patients recruited consecutively who fulfilled the inclusion criteria until the planned sample size was reached? "About 14 patients" is not an exact statement. The number of the patients finally included is described in the methods and the results sections.

Revision:

Methods; participants and data collection; lines 8-11.

Translation of the questionnaire: why was the translation into English done by a Persian native speaker and vice versa?

Revision:

Methods; translation into English; lines 3-5.

Overall: please proof read the manuscript.

The manuscript was read once again as proof read.

Fowzia Ibrahim (Reviewer 2): Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

No further comments to the revised manuscript.

Thanks