Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 09 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Tanja Stamm

Reviewer's report:

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.

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.

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.

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

Overall: please proof read the manuscript.

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.

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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