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Title	The Canadian Minimum Dataset for Chronic Low Back Pain Research: A Cross-Cultural Adaptation of the NIH Task Force Research Standards
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Reviewer 1	Dr. Rick Deyo MD MPH
Institution	Oregon Health and Science University, Departments of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine, Portland, Ore.
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>General: This is a clearly written, carefully conducted effort to translate the NIH minimum data set for chronic low back pain research into culturally appropriate Canadian French and English versions. The authors have provided a useful rationale for the minor changes that were implemented.</p> <p>We thank the reviewer for his careful reading of our manuscript and positive comments.</p> <p>Specific comments: I was disappointed to see that the item on reporting height and weight no longer included information on whether the measures were self-report estimation or actual measurements. Given the well-known inaccuracy of self-reports, especially of weight, I found this deletion surprising, but understand it was a consensus of the expert group.</p> <p>According to pre-test results, the information about whether height and weight have been measured by the patient, by his physician or is a self-reported estimation was removed. However, the reviewer is right that self-reported height and weight can be inaccurate. We can keep in mind that the questionnaire is proposed as a minimal set of variables that should be used for phenotyping LBP patients. Users of the Minimum dataset could keep these specifications if they want to consider this information in their analysis. This information was added in Table 3 (page 29).</p>
Reviewer 2	Dr. Fadi Al Zoubi PhD
Institution	Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, Montréal, Que.
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>1. Page 5-line 54: the authors did not define the abbreviation (PROMIS SF4a). Please write the abbreviation in full as Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System(PROMIS)...</p> <p>We would like to thank the reviewer for his insightful comments on the manuscript. The PROMIS abbreviation is now spelled out at first mention (page 4).</p> <p>2. Page 7-line 54: authors mentioned that the expert committee was convened to discuss both English and French versions (page 9-line 24-28). However, it was not clear whether the experts panel included English Canadians to discuss the English version of NIH minimum dataset.</p> <p>The composition of the Expert committee is now provided in the manuscript, i.e. 2 English and 6 French Canadians (page 7).</p> <p>3. Page 32-line: references 14-22 look like a series of publication; however, some of them are multiple publications for the same study. Please review them.</p> <p>That comment addresses one of our concerns. As stated in the Introduction section of the manuscript, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) task force on research standards for chronic low back pain published their recommendations in several leading pain and professional journals (references 14-22 present the exact same manuscript but in different journals). This duplicate publication practice is sometimes accepted by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editor (ICMJE), e.g., in the case of the publication of guidelines produced by government agencies. We felt that it was not appropriate to favour one journal instead of another so we cited all publications.</p>
Reviewer 3	Dr. Sheilah Hogg-Johnson PhD
Institution	Institute for Work and Health, Toronto, Ont.
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>This is a very well written paper.</p> <p>It uses a strong and rigorous methodology as per guidelines in the literature (Beaton et al Spine 2000;25(24):3186-91) to cross-culturally adapt the NIH Task Force Minimum Dataset for Chronic Low Back Pain Research to both a French language and English language Canadian context.</p> <p>I appreciate and support the changes made to race/ethnicity and education questions to conform with what is used by Statistics Canada.</p> <p>The outcome of the research makes a valuable contribution in the area of chronic low back pain research.</p> <p>I have no further feedback or suggestions.</p> <p>We would like to thank the reviewer for her positive comments on the manuscript.</p>