**Manuscript evaluation guidelines**Title:   
***Development and Validation of the Iranian Scale of “Patient Privacy and Confidentiality”***

1. Importance of the paper  
  
           Does it address issues relevant to the fields of bioethics and medical ethics in the developing countries?

***The paper describes the development process of a scale to assess the patient privacy, secrecy, and confidentiality in Iranian hospitals.***

2. Is it topical?  
  
           Is the issue discussed from another country's/culture perspective?  
 ***No***           Will it influence practice or policy?  
 ***This tool may help to assess the patient privacy in hospitals and the evaluation can* influence the practises in such hospitals.**

           Is it too specialized for the journal?  
***No***

3. Originality  
  
           Is the information /comment new?

***Not completely new***

Is there any likelihood of plagiarism?  
 ***Not suspecting plagiarism***  
  
4. Conclusions  
           Is the interpretation warranted, unwarranted, well developed?

***It looks like the authors did the study very systemtically and methodolgy was well described.***  
           Does the article contain loose generalisations?

***Authors reported that the illiterates were excluded from the study and hence generalisation is affected***  
           Are there any important omissions?  
  
 ***It seems No***  
5. Other comments:   
***The scale consists of 26 items and 7 domains; it should be useful if the authors add text on the overall assessment of the scale, for another user. For example, what are the criteria for telling that the patient had adequate level of privacy? Do you have any certain criteria to say that if the total score is above certain level, the privacy is adequately maintained? Etc..***

6. Recommendation  
  
 Accept as is  
  
 Accept with modifications (specify)  
  
 - style

- substance  
  
***Dicussion can be developed further on the use of the scale in other perspectives, and evaluation of privacy using the scale, its strength and limitations.***

7. Separate comments for the author

***Methodology well described. Dicuss on the use of the scale in other perspectives, and assessment of the scale, its strength and limitations.***

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\***Please let us know whether you would like your name to be published as a reviewer of the manuscript.This is optional.**