Reviewer’s report

Title: Restraint use in home care: a qualitative study from a nursing perspective

Version: 1 Date: 25 August 2013

Reviewer: Ralph Möhler

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and important study investigated nurses’ experiences of restraints’ use in home care settings. The manuscript is well written; however, I have some comments which might further improve the manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Results-reasons for restraints’ use (page 9/10)

One reason for using restraints was “keeping the patient at home as long as possible” and the citation offered is reasonable. However, could you please describe other situation where restraints were used for this reason and whether “keeping the patient at home as long as possible” was always the best solution for the patient?

“In most cases, the family and the nurses worked together to find the best solutions. Sometimes, family played a dominant role and took its own decisions, putting some nurses in a difficult situation, especially when the demands of the family were considered to conflict with the well-being of the patient.” (line 191-194). Could you please describe more clearly which aspects characterise “best solutions” from nurses’ perspective and distinguish from situation, which were identified by the participants as in “conflict with the well-being of the patient”. In long-term care settings, nurses often expect to use restraints as the “best solution”; however, often this is not based on the available knowledge and best practice recommendations.

Did the interviews reveal any information of the nurses’ perspective on the knowledge of families regarding the use of restraints?

Minor Essential Revisions

Method-participants (page 6)

Could you please add some information on the educational level of home care nurses in Belgium in general?

Method-procedure (page 7)

It is stated that the discussion guide was refined throughout the project: could you please give some examples of changes made?

Method-analysis (page 7)

Could you please state the number and role (i.e. degree of participation) of the
members of the research team?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests