Reviewer's report

Title: Evolution of the model of palliative care in the perinatal setting: a review of the clinical literature

Version: 2 Date: 15 August 2011

Reviewer: Brian Carter

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript reports on the authors' original intention of conducting a systematic review of the literature on the topic of neonatal-perinatal palliative care in hopes of distilling an evidence-based support for a 'best practice' model. Having been frustrated in this original intent - due to the lack of empirical studies in the field - the authors creatively turned their direction toward describing the gradual evolution of what constitutes most models of perinatal palliative care. The search methods and literature review process - both inclusion and exclusion criteria - are clear. The identified themes of family-centered care, comprehensive care that begins early in a process and is integrated into the larger picture of the patient's total care are appropriately descriptive of most models reported in individual or case series. And the specific findings addressing those articles reporting the antenatal applicability of palliative care are useful for readers. Tables and Figures are appropriately concise, informative and illustrative of facts, notions and concepts related in the manuscript.

A single correction is required on page 10 of the manuscript, line 19..."In any case, when trying to MAKE [not 'take'] a decision after a problem..."

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.