Reviewer's report

Title: Piloting the role of a pharmacist in a community palliative care multidisciplinary team: an Australian experience

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Reviewer: Timothy Chen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting manuscript. Palliative care is a very important and often under-researched area and so it is pleasing that this manuscript has been submitted. The role of the pharmacists in a multidisciplinary palliative care team has also not been explored in detail previously and so in this respect this work is important.

Major Revisions

Although the manuscript is generally easy to read and follow it has not been presented as a traditional manuscript would be. For example, a significant proportion of the manuscript is reported as bullet points or lists. Depending on style requirements, this may or may not be appropriate.

The overall aim of the study to “develop a cost effective model …” has not been tested. No data to support this overall aim has been reported.

The project methods were divided into three main phases: development, implementation and evaluation. This seems logical and appropriate. However there are no clear objectives for each of these phases. This would improve the manuscript significantly and help define the scope of the manuscript. Currently the manuscript is very broad in scope and the net result of this is that none of the areas of evaluation have been reported in significant detail (eg survey, focus group, evaluation of PILs etc). For example, Phase 1 of the study involved a review of the literature but a review of the literature is not included in the manuscript.

The variety of process, impact and outcome measures have not been explicitly stated or described in the manuscript. They have not been linked to the individual phases of the project.

The study engaged one pharmacist only in the delivery of services, and although experienced, the results presented suggest that the role was evolving and exploratory. Perhaps this manuscript could be alternatively written up as a feasibility study for the inclusion of a pharmacist into a palliative care team.

The discussion contains a list of bullet pointed recommendations. Data presented in the manuscript does not really suggest that such recommendations can be made. It may be better to re-structure the discussion so that there is a closer link between the results and the discussion section; and a discussion of the results in the context of other published literature.
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