Reviewer’s report

Title: The experience of palliative patients and their families of a family meeting utilised as an instrument for spiritual care: A qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 22 November 2010

Reviewer: Scott Murray

Reviewer’s report:

Family Meeting Review

1. The question posed by the authors is well defined; that is to investigate the participatory experiences of palliative care patients and significant family members in a family meeting.

2. The methods are appropriate and well described. The tables clearly set out Murphy’s model and the patients’ demographic details.

3. The data generated appear sound and a relevant and adequate amount is given to illustrate the main themes. The themes and sub-themes appear credible and well constructed.

4. The manuscript does adhere to relevant standards for reporting.

5. The discussion is clear, discusses study methodological limitations, and the conclusions very modest.

6. The limitations of the work are clearly stated including the need for more research in a wider more heterogeneous group.

7. The authors do refer to two other papers that they have published from this thesis.

8. The title and abstract clearly summarise the study.

9. The writing is very clear and excellently set out.

Discretionary revisions include:

Refer to any previous studies of family meetings being studied, or clearly state this is the first

Little more detail about next study needed in this area

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.