Reviewer's report

Title: Recommendations to improve the end-of-life care system for homeless populations: A qualitative study of the views of Canadian health and social care professionals

Version: 1 Date: 10 April 2012

Reviewer: Isolde Daiski

Reviewer's report:

Suggested Revisions to end-of-life care for homeless persons

suggested revisions: ‘minor essential revisions’, as additional analysis and some reorganization of the data is recommended to improve the coherence and clarity of the paper. see below

1) Is the question posed original, important and well defined?
yes, the question is important and original

2) Are the data sound and well controlled?
As the data are qualitative, this question does not apply. Instead, I would say that the data are supporting the discussion and conclusion partially, but could be reorganized to further strengthen the paper (see sticky notes in paper)

3) Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the data?
I believe the paper could be improved, (see later comments and comments on ‘sticky notes’ throughout the paper), e.g. you should include ‘facilitators’.

4) Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to allow others to evaluate and/or replicate the work?
Details are fine. The method is appropriate but some comparison between 4 sites could be made, e.g. were they all the same or different? Were some more appropriate than others?

5) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods?
Strengths are the diversity of care providers, weaknesses are that no care receivers are interviewed who know their own situations and needs best. As this is a qualitative study you are not looking for ‘facts’, but ‘understanding’ of the issue.

6) Can the writing, organization, tables and figures be improved?
Well written. Table with questions is fine
7) When revisions are requested:
   a) include a brief description of the palliative care system in Canada
   b) include a section on facilitators
   c) include your recommendations you draw from the discussion, literature and the recommendations of the participants, especially as this is stated in your title

8) Are there any ethical or competing interests issues you would like to raise?
   No

**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.