Reviewer’s report

Title: The development of an instrument that can identify children with palliative care needs: The Paediatric Palliative Screening Scale (PaPaS Scale) A qualitative study approach

Version: 1 Date: 6 March 2013

Reviewer: finella craig

Reviewer’s report:

No revisions necessary.

I think this is an interesting concept. I share the authors scepticism about the extent to which clinicians will use such a scoring system. But, I think it will help clinicians consider earlier referral (ie not just at end of life) and also to develop a better understanding of why they are referring to palliative care services.

My main disappointment (rather than a criticism) is that a relatively small number of professionals were involved in developing the tool and the focus group for phase 2 only included professionals from one hospital. Additionally, this group only included 4 physicians and 3 nurses.

It will be really interesting to see how this tool works in clinical practice.

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