Reviewer's report

Title: Family Members' Perceptions of End-of-Life Care across Diverse Locations of Care

Version: 1 Date: 19 December 2012

Reviewer: Susan E McClement

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

1) Literature needs to be included that speaks to the issue of family satisfaction on family outcome measures. Work has been published examining the influence of satisfaction on such factors as family member quality of life, family functioning, and family members’ health. Stated another way, the authors need to explain to the reader why family satisfaction is important and something clinicians need to be concerned about.

2) The authors need to provide rationale for the design that they used to execute this study. Why was their design the most appropriate? In addition to the global purpose of the study, the specific research questions that were asked and answered should be provided.

3) Rationale needs to be provided for the 6 month period of time during which PCH and hospice records were retrieved. Why 6 months and not 9, or 12?

4) The authors need to clarify if those potential participants who received a letter of invitation in Chinese or Punjabi also completed a survey and answered the qualitative questions in their own language. If so, processes by which back translation was accomplished should be described.

5) It is not clear in the manuscript how the narrative data was captured. Was the telephone conversation tape-recorded and then transcribed? Or, were hand notes made by the Research Nurse? How was the narrative data analysed?

6) The authors should explain why the study did not directly ask if the outreach and consult team if they were involved in the patient’s care.

7) What was the rationale for selecting the ABDFMI for instrumentation, given its limitations?

8) What exactly do the authors feel their study contributes to the field that is new? The reported findings will be familiar to those working in the field of palliative and end of life care.

Discretionary revisions

1) The authors should provide references to support the assertion made in the first sentence of the section entitled, Background.
2) The authors should also reference the assertions made in the second sentence of this section.

3) The names of the authors under limitations of the study that appear in parenthesis (ref McPherson and Addington-Hall) need to be removed.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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.