Reviewer's report

Title: Meanings of existential uncertainty and certainty for people diagnosed with cancer and receiving palliative treatment: a life-world phenomenological study

Version: 3 Date: 9 March 2014

Reviewer: Stuart Milligan

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to comment again on the above paper. I am satisfied that the writers have acknowledged all of my comments and have taken action to respond to most of them. They have given explanations for few that they have chosen to disregard. However, I still remain concerned about the use of “finitude” which I believe will not be understood by the majority of readers.

Minor Essential Revisions:

I remain concerned about the quality of English in the paper. In my opinion, this is still below an acceptable standard. For instance, in just a short passage on Page 4, I noticed the following errors:

P4 “threat for one’s existence” should be “threat to one’s existence”

P4 “regarded the starting-point” should be “regarded as the starting-point”

P4 “the bodily experience involve becoming aware of the own mortality” should be “the bodily experience involves becoming aware of one’s own mortality”

There are many other errors like these, but one in particular is in the statement “be in the movement between existential certainty and uncertainty” which should probably be re-phrased “move between existential certainty and uncertainty”.

I would strongly recommend that the manuscript is thoroughly edited for grammar, punctuation and English language before publication.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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