Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding the role of the volunteer in specialist palliative care: a systematic review and thematic analysis of qualitative studies

Version: 2  Date: 20 January 2014

Reviewer: Kate Flemming

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks for the opportunity to review this revised manuscript. The authors have given an excellent and comprehensive response to the reviewers' comments. Of particular note are their new sections on quality appraisal and inclusion criteria within the discussion, which will help guide others as to how to report these issues, adding to the methodological knowledge base for syntheses of qualitative research.

I look forward to seeing this article being published.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'