Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility of assessing quality of care at the end of life in two cluster trials using an after-death approach with multiple assessments.

Version: 3 Date: 2 May 2014

Reviewer: Antony Arthur

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer 2 1:
Yes – p values don’t tell you the direction the differences. This is explained in the text (hospice patients compared with hospital patients less likely to be male, have spent longer in education and more likely to be single).

Reviewer 2 3:
This sentence for me is still problematic:
There are worries that using proxy respondents may lessen the subjectivity of data gathered when researching this phase.
And I note that the other reviewer also mentioned this. Reading it again I think what the authors are saying is that the subjective view of the dying person may not be adequately captured by using proxy respondents. If that is the case I still think the point could be made more clearly.

Reviewer 2 6: A Mann-Whitney U test doesn’t assume data are normally distributed and is potentially more informative (and interpretable) for ordinal data.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests