Reviewer's report

Title: Initiating decision-making conversations in palliative care: An ethnographic discourse analysis

Version: 2 Date: 31 August 2014

Reviewer: Sayaka Takenouchi

Reviewer's report:

This is a well done study that should be of interest to the readers of BMC Palliative Care. Excerpts would help readers to better understandings of your claim. However, I have a few minor concerns and recommendations. I am mostly concerned about the fact that the authors have not made a strong enough statement why their study is important and adds to the literature. It is also recommended to state logical relationships between methods and claims given their research utilized research methods, discourse analysis with ethnographic methods, we find less frequently.

1. How was the sample size validated? Was it a matter of convenience of a sampling of all patients at the time of the study?

2. Were there back translation done when the first author translated French excerpts?

3. It would be good to know how researchers could argue their analysis were not subjective and how a careful reading of the text was done in the section of data analysis.

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.