Reviewer's report

**Title:** Family meetings in palliative care: multidisciplinary clinical practice guidelines

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 May 2008

**Reviewer:** Betty Ferrell

**Reviewer's report:**

Overall an excellent article. A few comments:

1. Page 4, under literature review, please give the citations for the 4 papers found regarding palliative care.

2. Page 9-10. Can you be more explicit about the content regarding “Single Session Therapy”. Are you implying that a family conference is “therapy”? This is fine but I think you need to be clear.

3. My primary concern is that there are many very important papers not cited in the paper or reference list that are the classis/key papers in the field. Leading work by Rabow, Tulsky, Curtis and others really should be included. As written, the literature review does not present the best work in the field.

4. As prepared, the form suggested on page 25 (Box 4) doesn’t seem practical. For example the grid for “Key Actions” doesn’t provide adequate space to record the concerns. Some of the forms appear to be research tools but not practical clinical tools.

**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