Reviewer's report

**Title:** Dying from cancer or other chronic diseases in the Netherlands: ten-year trends derived from death certificate data

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 8 October 2008

**Reviewer:** Barbara Gomes

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript has been much improved, the authors have addressed appropriately comments from the reviewers and developed an interesting discussion. I therefore support publication.

Final caution point - the authors state several times in the text that people dying with what they have considered as chronic diseases are the "palliative care group". I advice the authors to be more cautious with this statement and to consider that this may not be true to some, who may had had a different dying trajectory. Also, bear in mind that the use of an arbitrary cut point for acute vs non-acute stroke deaths also adds uncertainty. "likely to experience palliative care needs" or "may have benefitted from palliative care" are possible and more appropriate alternatives.

**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.