Reviewer’s report

Title: Inapplicability of advanced directives in a paternalistic setting: the case of a post-communist health system

Version: 2 Date: 8 February 2011

Reviewer: Lieve Van den Block

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

I do not think this paper is suitable for publication as it is at the moment:

The abstract is not written in a conventional way. It should be subdivided into background, method, results and discussion, instead of background, discussion and summary. Also, in the background section, there is no clear research question. It is unclear whether the abstract is the result of research or more an opinion paper. If a literature review is used, this should be explained in detail.

The whole paper is built around three sections: background, discussion and summary, which is not appropriate for a research paper. It is not clear whether any research was done, which type, how it was performed, when etc. It seems more an opinion paper, with some references to the literature, but not a research paper. Some paragraphs also contain statements without appropriate references to the literature.

Only in the summary on page 6 (of 7 pages) the authors state “We interviewed the relatives of 57 recently admitted third-age persons in a neurological facility due to the onset of a sudden comatose situation of different etiologies.”

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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