Reviewer’s report

Title: To Evaluate the Effectiveness of Health Care Ethics Consultation Based on the Goals of Health Care Ethics Consultation: A Prospective Cohort Study with Randomization

Version: 2
Date: 11 November 2013

Reviewer: Antony Tobin

Reviewer’s report:

Major
1. I would like some more detailed description of the ethics process in particular how patient informed consent was waived.

2. I do not accept the assumption that HCEC did not harm patients. Given the shorter hospital stay in this arm and the very high mortality it is almost certain that patients in the HCEC arm had shorter survivals. Whilst this may be appropriate it is wrong to suggest that similar mortality excluded harm. This needs to be reworded.

3. I am still unclear how you determined whether consensus was achieved without interviewing patients/families. If this was not done then the study would be very biased by the HCEC self-reporting success. This needs to be clarified

Minor

1. Paragraph 2 on page 2 needs to be rewritten. You state that the groups are different but not statistically so. You should say that there was no significant differences between the groups

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