Reviewer’s report

Title: Survey of the General Public’s Attitudes Toward Advance Planning in Japan: How to Respect Patients’ Preferences.

Version: 4  Date: 7 October 2006

Reviewer: Karl Lorenz

Reviewer’s report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

If I understand the intent of your edit properly, I would suggest modifying the following language in the Discussion,

"Many respondents refused high burden, poor likelihood treatments even in a temporary illness scenario which is a relatively healthy state. We defined a temporary illness as 'decisional incapacity caused by mental disorders, in which people would soon recover capacity.' Although we are not certain, respondents may have intended treatment limitations only to apply to a state of incapacity, not if those treatments were necessary for their recovery including recovery of decisional capacity."

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests