Reviewer's report

Title: Patient experiences of recovery after heart valve replacement: suffering weakness, struggling to resume normality.

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2013

Reviewer: Grace Lindsay

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors should clarify that Husserl and Rigcoeur approaches to phenomenology theory and explanations of narrative are compatible particularly when using a semi structured interview as a frame work.

2. The Authors should explain when reading the transcripts the manner in which the second interviewer questions added to the analysis

3. In the analysis section three areas of analysis are introduced these each should have a sub heading

4. In the naive reading section it should be explained how the validation or invalidation is undertaken within the subsequent structural analysis

5. In naive reading the authors state that contradictory data for units of significance that were not value laden- how was this judged?

6. In the results section the overall concepts are presented from the naive reading since this is not the final part of the analysis process how is this justified?

7. The author states patients struggle to re-establish balance in overall living – what is meant by this?

8. The rigour of the justification of themes could be enhanced by a larger selection of quotes and a more detailed analysis revealing sub themes within the larger theme headings

I think without this level of detail and explanation the manuscript is not acceptable for publication and requires major additions to address the above points.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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