Author's response to reviews

Title: Nurses’ and care workers’ experiences of spiritual needs in patients with dementia disease in nursing homes: a qualitative study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Nurses’ and care workers’ experiences of spiritual needs in residents with dementia in nursing homes: a qualitative study.

Reviewer's report

2. Reviewer: Nancy S Hogan

Reviewer's report:
I reviewed the revised manuscript and the revision has been thoughtfully done. I do have one substantive comment. The sub-theme “Calmness due to recognition” could be reconsidered to be called “Calmness due to familiarity” to better reflect the data from which it was derived. The thematic description is about engaging patients in activities that are familiar to them. Familiarity with people and objects is essential to person’s with cognitive deficits, to feel in touch with the world around them. The data support this revision. The quote about the patient pushing a wheelbarrow is a touching example.

Our comments:
We are thankful for the reviewer’s comments, and have changed the sub-theme to: “Calmness due to familiarity” in line with the reviewer’s report both in the abstract p. 3 and in the document on p. 14.

Reviewer's report:

3. Reviewer: David Jolley

This is basically a good paper now and has much to commend it. The authors have acted on most of the recommendations made by reviewers. My major concern remains their insistence on the use of the term 'patient' so often and persistently. Many people will see this as offensive, reducing or denying the equal claims of the individual with dementia to be valued as a person. p 12: ’a specific disorder that requires special healthcare initiatives that place residents in a patient role’
These are people, resident in care and to be seen as such - Over 80% of the residents have dementia. In this context, it is normality. In any context people with dementia should not be set apart.
Our comments:
We have changed the term “patient” to “resident” throughout the whole document in line with the reviewer’s recommendation.

Reviewer’s comments:
Minor observations:
p14 "nurses experienced that’ - better: 'Nurses found that'
p15 'aimless wandering' perhaps better 'non-focused walking' (Mary Marshall)

Our comments:
We have changed the sentences in line with the reviewer’s suggestion:
P 14, “nurses found that…”
P15, “non-focused walking”