Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 13 February 2014

**Reviewer:** David Jolley

**Reviewer's report:**

1) There are errors of language throughout. These are distracting and there are some instances where I cannot be sure what the authors want to say

   Dementia is best referred to as ‘dementia’ not ‘dementia disease’.

   ‘Patients’ are better described in this context as ‘residents’

2) The method and setting of the study are not adequately described. I would wish to know more about the Nursing Homes – their size and locality and whether they cater only for people with dementia or have a mixed clientele. This may have influence on how residents and their spirituality are seen by care-staff.

3) We have some details of the characteristics of staff who gave their time to the study. It would be helpful to know how big the pool from which they are drawn is, and the characteristics of the whole workforce so that we have an idea of how representative the views gathered are likely to be.

4) One example cites a Spanish carer interacting with a Norwegian resident – the limits of language and how these were overcome. Issues of ethnicity and language might be addressed for the whole group of carers

5) The study used a two-part focus group strategy – I have not understood what advantages this gives or what was gained by having a second focus group with the same (predominantly) staff. Perhaps this can be explained

6) Whilst the tables summarise useful information and might be helpful in oral presentations, I suggest none are necessary in a paper as the information can be conveyed in a few words in the text

7) Subjects were given a written topic guide. It would be good if this is offered to interested parties by correspondence with the lead author

Points 1-6 compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests