Reviewer's report

**Title:** Implementation of the quality management system in Lithuanian palliative care hospitals

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 April 2006

**Reviewer:** Cordula Wagner

**Reviewer's report:**

General
correction by an English native speaker
there is more relevant literature about the implementation of QMS in other countries

-------------------------------------------------------------------

**Major Compulsory Revisions** (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
missing information:
- information in the method section about who has filled out the questionnaire
- information on how the author has measured the implementation stage of a QMS - has he counted activities? has he asked the respondent?
- organization benefits are perceived benefits. the authors can state that more clearly
- the existence of a training system does not mean that employees have more competence
- how can the authors explain that respondents perceive benefits, but are in general less satisfied
- it has been stated that larger hospitals need more time to implement, but they have more resources and personnel to get things done. the statement should be formulated as an expectation of the authors. because I wouldn't expect that based on the literature
- cooperation between small hospitals can help to develop procedures, but most procedures are hospital specific. otherwise small hospitals could use the procedures that has already been developed by larger hospitals
- key reasons for the introduction of QMS has not been described in the method section

-------------------------------------------------------------------

**Minor Essential Revisions** (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- I prefer whole percentages
- it is not clear that figures in the brackets are SD
- description of groups should be part of the method section

-------------------------------------------------------------------

**Discretionary Revisions** (which the author can choose to ignore)

-------------------------------------------------------------------

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests