Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 30 June 2006

Reviewer: Cordula Wagner

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper has been improved and the authors have responded well to the comments of the reviewers.

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

Background.
The authors describe that in the Netherlands the head of an organisation is responsible for the quality of care. This is not entirely correct. The care institutions quality act says that the care provider is responsible. Therefore the organisation has to implement a QMS. But, medical specialists for example are care providers who are responsible for the care they deliver. This is regulated in another law (Wet BIG).

Research aim and first sentence of discussion section
The authors state that there has been no research into QMS in nursing hospitals before. It is not clear whether the authors refer to Lithuania only or to countries and research in general.
In general, there has been research into QMS before by myself and by others, as I have mentioned in my first review. The situation in the Netherlands and a comparison between three countries has recently been published in BMC HSR, and before in Health Policy and the International Journal for Quality in Healthcare. I would expect to find this research in the reference list, and for example a reflection on the own results compared to earlier results in other countries in the discussion.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests