Reviewer's report

Title: Physicians' experience with end-of-life decision making: survey in 6 European countries and Australia

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2007

Reviewer: Clive Seale

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an important article describing results from a well conducted international survey. The authors’ reputations and publishing history are known to me, and I am familiar with their method. The literature contains no study of this magnitude comparing physicians in different countries according to their experience of ELDs and the factors contributing to that experience, and willingness to engage in ELDs. This is of great interest internationally as countries around the world periodically consider revisions to policies that concern ELDs.

My only hesitation concerns the date at which the survey was done. The authors give no information about this in the abstract or methods section, but in the discussion (paragraph 5 first sentence) suggest that it was done before 2002, which is now some time ago. Could the authors be asked to clarify this point in the abstract and methods section? If the survey was indeed done before 2002, the editors of BMC Medicine may wish to consider whether some comment on the implications of this might be needed from the authors.

None, unless the above issues are considered to be important by the editors

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after minor essential
revisions

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests