Reviewer's report

Title: QUALZICE: A QUALitative exploration of the experiences of the participants from the ZICE clinical trial (metastatic breast cancer) receiving intravenous or oral bisphosphonates

Version: 1 Date: 8 July 2013

Reviewer: suzanne denieffe

Reviewer's report:

Having reviewed this paper, I believe that it is an interesting paper which will add to the field of knowledge. The aim of the study is clear and the methodology used for analysis appropriate (IPA). The revisions suggested are as follows

Major Compulsory Revisions

The theme 'interviewers actions' is an interesting theme-- but one would wonder if such actions had an influence on the other themes that emerged from your data and if in fact needed to be considered in this paper, at least in brief?

4. I feel that the figure gives a satisfactory overview of the theme 'Patients experiences' but in the presentation of written results, (perhaps due to a lack of numbering?) it is hard to distinguish between sub themes. Are all subthemes equal? If so the figure would seem to suggest otherwise. Perhaps the figure could be made clearer in terms of changing of font or font size to show the relationships between the sub-themes and then considering numbering or font changes within the written results might better link the figure to the results.

Discretionary Revisions

1. the section on recruitment: 'Sampling of participants was purposive .... This sentence should be reconsidered- it suggests a possible bias in your recruitment whereas the selection criteria provided in the paper shows that a recruitment bias is unlikely.

2. The change to an interview schedule is not unusual in such a study, it might have been useful to provide it in the paper, perhaps giving the final version but highlighting changes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I wish to declare I have no competing interests.