Author’s response to reviews

Title: Experiences of end of life amongst family carers of people with advanced dementia: Longitudinal cohort study with mixed methods

Authors:

Kirsten Moore (kirsten.moore@ucl.ac.uk)
Sarah Davis (s.davis@ucl.ac.uk)
Anna Gola (anna.gola@ucl.ac.uk)
Jane Harrington (j.harrington@ucl.ac.uk)
Nuriye Kupeli (n.kupeli@ucl.ac.uk)
Victoria Vickerstaff (v.vickerstaff@ucl.ac.uk)
Michael King (michael.king@ucl.ac.uk)
Gerard Leavey (g.leavey@ulster.ac.uk)
Irwin Nazareth (i.nazareth@ucl.ac.uk)
Louise Jones (caroline.jones@ucl.ac.uk)
Elizabeth Sampson (e.sampson@ucl.ac.uk)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Anne,

Thank you for the positive responses to our paper: Experiences of end of life amongst family carers of people with advanced dementia: Longitudinal cohort study with mixed methods. We are able to address the points made and have detailed our response below.

1. Could you please clarify if the “modified version of the Inventory of Complicated Grief (ICG)” is included in the reference supplied in the text (27) or did the authors of this study modify this measure themselves? If the modified version is included in the reference, please simply indicate this in the Response to Reviewers box. If not, please upload the modified version, in English, of the ICG which was adapted and used in this study as a supplementary file.
Response: We did not modify the ICG but used a modification developed for another study. We have revised the text and added the Mitchell reference in the Method section to address this: “We also used the Inventory of Complicated grief (ICG; Prigerson et al 1995) modified to be suitable for carers before the death of their relative (ICG Short-Form Pre-Loss) as modified and obtained from the authors Mitchell et al (2006).” We have also modified Table 1 references to the ICG accordingly.

2. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of LJ, MK, IN, KM, SD, AG, JH, NK, VV, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to study concept and design or data collection, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

Response: All authors played a significant role in the paper. Members of the research team who did not fulfill all the requirements for authorship were not included on the authorship list but were already included in the acknowledgements section (Professors Rumana Omar and Steve Morris, Margaret Elliott, Sharon Scott and Kathryn Lord). We have revised the author contribution section to address the concerns raised. It now states:

“ES, LJ, MK, GL, IN substantially contributed to the concept and design of the study. SD, JH and NK provided substantial contribution to data collection. KM, SD, AG, JH, NK, VV, GL and ES provided substantial contribution to analysis and interpretation. All authors were involved in drafting the manuscript or in critically revising the manuscript for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final manuscript and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.”

3. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

Response: We have removed the reference to the Figure title to the body of the text and have included it after the references under the heading ‘Figure Legend’

4. Please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: We have uploaded a clean final version of all documents with Table 2 inserted into the main document and Figure 1 modified into portrait format.

5. Please see the Reviewer's comments with regards to the references (Reviewer: … some references do not follow author guidelines. Please check them before publication.)

Response: We have modified the reference list to ensure that it is consistent with the author guidelines.
Best wishes,

Kirsten