Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers and facilitators to implementing Dementia Care Mapping in Care Homes: results from the DCM™ EPIC Trial process evaluation

Version: 0 Date: 26 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Jacomine de Lange

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is interesting and clear and will support others with implementation of complex interventions in dementia care and with implementation research.

pg 6 r 28 I do not understand the percentages. They do not count to 100%? Figure 1 does not help to understand.

Findings/discussion:

pg 7 r 26: only two residents participated and 6 relatives, pg 9 r8: interviews varied from 3 to 38 minutes. residents and relatives no highlighted any facilitators or barriers.

Please reflect on this issue in the discussion.

In care homes and nursing homes time is often given as a reason not to give psychosocial care, attention, organise activities and so on.

The authors selected care homes with 3 full cycles of DCM and homes who not succeeded: was there a difference in barriers and facilitators between the two types of care homes? And how was the time-problem solved in successful care homes?

With other words: is lack of time in fact lack of motivation of was there really lack of time.

The same may be the case for the lack of time of the mappers. They felt urged to help their colleagues. Or: within the culture of the care home it is not done to say no to your colleagues.

Discussion

DCM is a complex, time consuming intervention and staff is often not enough qualified for all parts of the intervention. Is it, based on these findings, possible to give recommendations to make DCM less complex for instance through other forms of observation, coding and paperwork? Please reflect on this issue.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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I declare that I have no competing interests.

I am a certified DCM mapper myself.

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