Reviewer’s report

Title: Frailty: An in-depth qualitative study exploring the views of community care staff

Version: 0 Date: 07 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Anne van der Vorst

Reviewer’s report:

This article extends our knowledge about how healthcare professionals view frailty. The article is very interesting and well-written. However, I have some questions and suggestions.

My major concern is the way the results (and subsequently the discussion section) are presented and structured.

ABSTRACT

- Maybe you could specify the clinical relevance in the Background.
- Maybe you could specify (some of) the topics or questions that were discussed during the interviews in the Methods

INTRODUCTION

- In the first paragraph of the background, you should mention the multidimensional approach(es) to frailty as well
- In the second paragraph you state that 'A few studies have focused on the understanding of frailty among hospital staff.' It seems relevant to describe these findings a bit more.

METHODS

- Can you describe 'Braun and Clarks' six phases of thematic analysis' (heading Design) in a bit more detail?
- Is 'proximity to the researchers' a good criterion for choosing teams to participate?
- Regarding the Data collection (1): please specify in the text which members of the research team / authors conducted the interviews.
I did notice that in the 'Authors' contribution' it is specified that the authors who conducted the interviews, also conducted the analyses. Wouldn't it be better if an 'independent researcher' was involved in the analyses as well?

- Regarding the Data collection (2): can you provide more information on the content of the interview guide?

- Did you follow a qualitative data analyses 'guide'/method? Please specify.

RESULTS

- How many potential participants refused to participate in your study? (and do you know some of their characteristics?)

- Did the themes actually emerged from the interviews, or were these the topics that were part of your interview guide?

- Could you add a quote that represents the interaction of the different components (i.e. how they might influence each other)?

- Please look at the way you have structured and present your findings. Some examples for what I mean by this are:
  
  o I wouldn't expect findings such as 'Difficulty or inability to "manage" or "cope" with everyday activities was deemed to be an indicator of frailty.' under the heading Physical health.

  Related hereto: perhaps it is best to describe the 'interactions' in a separate heading?

  o Some of the findings you describe as psychological factors, can also be described as ways of dealing with problems.

  o Findings related to the social environment seem to focus on its impact on the (effectiveness of the) care that can be delivered, rather than that the social environment is part of frailty.

  o You state 'Economic factors also influenced the suitability of the living environment of frail older adults.' - but isn't your article about how professionals view frailty - and if so: aren't economic factors a part of frailty, rather than that they effect the situation frail older people are in?

- Could you be more specific about the frailty tools the professionals used? (heading Assessment of frailty).

- Perhaps the joint collaboration could be described in a separate heading?
• Perhaps the heading Shared understanding of frailty among care staff could be rephrased into Barriers and facilitators to shared understanding….

DISCUSSION

• Regarding the first paragraph: please note that in the Comprehensive Frailty Assessment Instrument (CFAI; De Witte et al., 2013) environmental frailty is taken into account. In addition, economic factors were mentioned by older people themselves in the study by Dury et al. (2018) - which you did cite later in your article.

• The second paragraph is not entirely clear to me - can you elaborate on this?

• Please specify the rationale for your statement that the role of mobility is less apparent in a hospital setting.

• Please look at the way you have structured and present your findings.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal