Reviewer's report

Title: My husband is not ill; he has memory loss - Caregivers’ perspectives on health care services for persons with dementia

Version: 0 Date: 04 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Doris S.F. Yu

Reviewer's report:

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perceived needs of caregivers of persons with dementia on the health care service. In views of the fact that the prevalence of dementia is rising to an epidemic, the topic is of high clinical relevance to inform the development of related health care service. However, the below comments need to be addressed.

1. The Introduction did not provide with readers with the information about the pattern of health care service utilization among the dementia caregivers. The discussion is only geared towards the impact of stereotyping on help-seeking behaviors. Instead, more comprehensible models have been developed to explain the help-seeking behaviors for caregivers. The authors need to based on such model to discuss the help seeking behaviors of the caregivers and set the direction for this qualitative exploratory study. By the way, to better set the scene for the reader, what is the service utilization among caregivers in the country of origin? As there is a substantial level of paper published to mention the perceived needs and health care service utilization among family caregivers of persons with dementia, the scene setter can be more successful by integrating a brief update of the existing knowledge on the topic. The gap in literature needs to be identified.

2. On p.4, line 2, it is unclear why the authors specified the 'offspring caregivers'.

3. On p. 4, line 42, it should be "purposive sample" rather than "purposeful". Did the authors maximize the sample variation for this qualitative study? If yes, what are the conditions used to maximize the variation. How to define 'informal caregivers'? Did they have a family relationship with the persons with dementia. How to determine the sample size in this study?
4. The reasons for using focus group interview are less clear. Please justify why focus group was used instead of individual interview.

5. What was the intended group size for the focus group interview? The current group size seems to be lower than the recommendation for maintaining an adequate level of social interaction. Please explain about this.

6. What was the interview guide used for the focus group. The information is needed for reader to determine the validity of the study.

7. On p.6, line 11-18, the authors mentioned that the main themes were presented to a sample of caregivers who had not participated in the focus group. How this sample was recruited and what were the section criteria? Based on what condition they can validate the findings? As the author did not mention whether data saturation has been reached, please explain why a separate sample is needed for audit trail.

8. Please explain why a number of quantitative instruments are used in the study the psychometrics of these instruments were not described.

9. The Discussion section can be strengthened by discuss the current findings with existing literature. Need to elaborate the implications of the findings to practice and research,

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

No

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

No

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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