Reviewer’s report

Title: Trained volunteers to support chronically ill, multimorbid elderly between hospital and domesticity - A systematic review of one-on-one-intervention types, effects, and underlying training concepts

Version: 0 Date: 13 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Grace Warner

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract

P2

Line 3- The phrase…volunteering has hardly established as a pillar… sounds stilted. It might be better phrased as…volunteering has barely been established as a pillar…

Background

P3

Line 53- same comment as for abstract

P4

Lines 12-24-Paragraph seems disjointed, the sentences do not flow to create a cohesive thought. In addition, there should be a paragraph on the need for volunteers (or domesticity) in situations where older adults transition from hospital to home as this is one of the criteria used for the interventions.

Methods

P 5

Line 20- Explain what an institutional search is, what type of search is this?

Lines 47-52- This information should be moved up to address the issue identified in line 20.

P6

Line 6-Add in phrase… Participants receiving care from volunteers had a mean age…
Line 29- Explain what a formalized voluntary service is for those outside of Germany.

P9

Lines 27-43-These additional categories are confusing as they are not referred to in the rest of the review. I would explain them in paragraph form as categories that were initially coded, but not presented in the rest of the review as they were not after a hospital stay.

P10

Write a summary of what information is in what table. Consider revising to ensure that the details in the text are the highlights of what is in the tables, some details in the text just repeat what is in the tables.

Line 1- add words to the sentence. …on volunteer training from the authors of these three studies…

Line 1-12- Rewrite so you create a list of what you did to gather more information on volunteer training. For example, …To obtain information on volunteer training we 1) obtained checklist…2) Analyzed published…. Then make sure the total adds up.

Line 30-In the Philippi study who do they include?

P11

Line 29- The use of the term undercut is not familiar to me, are the authors referring to a loss of power due to a reduced sample size?

P12

Lines 12-34- Does all this information need to be in the text? Some of the details seem to repeat what is in the tables.

P13

Line 23- should it be or congestive heart failure instead of and?

P16

Line 49-Should the word be In conjunction with, instead of in cooperation with?

P17

Line 5-current instead of currently

Line 14-Why are smaller group sizes needed?
Line 19-Is it that the groups are of longer duration? Why do they have to be of longer duration?

Line 29-The comment on German-speaking concepts… seems country specific instead of study specific. Is this in reference to the German studies?

The training information is interesting, but it overwhelms the information on the studies. There is no direct relationship between the training and the study interventions/outcomes. Connect them to provide relevance and insights from the training on the interventions/outcomes.

Table 1

Line 39-For the Philippi study under indication the phrase "Need for Support (screening)" is vague. Make this more specific, did they include by age?

**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.

Unable to assess

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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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