Reviewer’s report

Title: “What would you like to achieve?” Goal-Setting in Patients with Dementia in Geriatric Rehabilitation. Results of a Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jul 2019

Reviewer: John Parsons

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for this very interesting and important submission. You describe a study involving 101 patients undergoing rehabilitation who all have mild to moderate dementia. Your comparison of a semi-structured and structured approach to goal setting is innovative and have great clinical efficacy. There are a number of issues that I feel would need to be addressed.

1. Please provide some commentary on the potential impact of environment on goal setting practice-acute inpatient setting may be different to community based programmes.

2. Your submission only refers to therapists and patients and not any other team member. The absence of any consideration of the contribution of family members is particularly glaring.

3. Please provide more detail about the structured approach to goal setting in comparison to other goal setting tools in the literature for other relevant patient groups.

4. Please provide greater detail about the unstructured approach and the experience / training of staff in this approach. If the approach simply consisted of asking patients for their goals then it is not surprising that this met with little success.

The submission would benefit from proof reading / editing as there are a number of errors eg
Lines 41 and 42- rewrite Various studies were conducted to gain insight in individual meaningful goals and to promote 42 collaborative goal-setting in rehabilitation for different indications (6-12).

Very old data- 2011.

96- orthopaedic instability- this needs clarification as an exclusion criteria

97- correct sever to severe

321- correct theses to these

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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