Reviewer’s report

Title: Peer-to-Peer Support Model to Improve Quality of Life Among Highly Vulnerable, Low-income Older Adults in Cape Town, South Africa

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Ralph Möhler

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review the interesting manuscript. This article is about a peer-to-peer support intervention in South Africa. This is an interesting and important field. Following you find my comments.

Please refer to an adequate reporting guideline when revising the manuscript, e.g. the TREND statement (Des Jarlais et al (2014). Improving the reporting quality of nonrandomized evaluations of behavioral and public health interventions: the TREND statement. Am J Public Health; 94(3):361-366).

Major revision

Please revise the abstract:

Background - please delete the repeated sentences ("In other contexts, the use of…").

Methods: please describe the intervention in more detail and the outcomes of interest.

Results: the results are described a little bit too superficial. Please add some more detail.

Discussion: please take the limitations of the study into account (see my last comment)

Background

Line 131: Please add some more information about the link between the Mothers2Mothers program for HIV positive mothers and your study. Did you recruit only aged people from this program?

Please move the description of the intervention to the method section and merge the information described (general information in the background section and information about recruitment and training). Please describe the content of the intervention in more detail.
Methods

Please add some information about the rational for the sample size.

What was the primary outcome for this study?

Please add some more information about the assessment instruments (e.g. validity, information about the quality of the results assessed by the trained raters).

The study was conducted in 2014 and the results might be of limited interest.

Results

Please revise the results section according to the reporting guideline mentioned above.

Discussion

Please consider the study limitations, e.g. uncontrolled study, lack of blinding, subjective outcomes and the risk of Influence of socially desirable responding, multiple testing in the discussion, conclusion and implications.

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.

No

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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