Reviewer’s report

Title: The need for improved cognitive, hearing and vision assessments for older people with cognitive impairment: A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Andrea Tales

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format. Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

This is a very timely and important area of research. The authors highlight and investigate a very real issue with respect to dementia diagnosis and care.

There are however several instances where the information in the manuscript lacks clarity and depth. The apparent importance of the findings and thus their impact would be greatly improved by a more in-depth discussion of what was investigated and why and what the findings might mean.

For example:

Methodology: There is a lack of clarity re. the rationale and the organisation and the carrying out of the focus group; the authors mention focus groups but three is a lack of clear information about who was included in each group. Also the authors then discuss dyads...how do these relate to the focus groups and the methodology...this section is rather unclear.

It would also help clarity if the inclusion and exclusion criteria appeared in the same section. On line 157 the authors state that 'inclusion criteria differed across sites' in what way did they differ?

Lin 255...please can you explain and discuss in more detail what is meant by 'couldn't really explain what happened during assessment’

line 259...what is meant by 'doesn't take the chance of taking further information'..mean? many such points need to be discussed in more detail...as do their potential relevance

Line 306 What does the 'plastic thing' refer to....it's difficult to understand the context for some of the examples given
Line 329 What is the difference between understanding and comprehension...what is the context for this?

Is there information about how exactly hearing and vision problems impacted upon cognitive performance...I think there's a great deal of information here that's not perhaps reported at all or in enough depth in the manuscript.

Line 421 What do the authors mean buy the statement that 'care partners need to "reach out on their own"'?

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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 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