Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in Cause and Place of Death for Children in Portugal (a European Country with no Paediatric Palliative Care) during 1987-2011: a population-based study

Version: 1 Date: 10 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Anjali Shah

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank the authors for the amendments they have made. The paper reads far better and is close to publication standard.

Points to note:

Abstract
Lines 52-3. I would recommend rephrasing the sentence to read: Age, diagnosis, season and region are associated with home death, and should be considered when planning services to support families choosing this option.

Methods
Line 110. I would strongly urge the authors to add a sentence explaining why multiple imputation was not appropriate for use in this analysis.

Results
Line 144: please add the word 'gradually' to read: 'Over the study period age at death gradually increased:…'

Generally in the results, changes and trends are described, but there is little reference to statistical significance of such changes. Perhaps some P values or confidence intervals and the words 'significant / non-significant change' could be added?

Discussion
Lines 221-224. I am still struggling to understand what is 'first-time' about this study. By this I refer to two publications, which I would recommend the authors use in the manuscript:

Viner RM et al. 50-year mortality trends in children and young people: a study of 50 low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries. The Lancet (2011); 377: 1162-74

This study includes mortality trends from Portugal and many other countries for those aged 1-24 years during 1955-2004.

And:
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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