Reviewer’s report

Title: Communication between family carers and health professionals about end-of-life care for older people in the acute hospital setting: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 5 April 2015

Reviewer: Martin H Tattersall

Reviewer’s report:

Major revisions: The authors make assumptions about readers understanding of LCP. This detail needs to be added

How carers are informed and by whom of patients being placed on LCP and on DNACPR is not detailed. How is this information discussed with carers, and where in the medical record is this documented. Is the carer a co-signatory? Are the allied health and nursing staff formally told of these decisions and the implications for ongoing care.

There is no mention of advance care directives or planning. Is this not part of the UK EOL decision making?

The 4 wards have different consultants. The results do not discuss whether some consultants are more likely to be skilled in broaching EOL care.

Does each ward have equal access to palliative care consultants and supportive care trained nurse specialists?

Minor revisions: Are there policies about the information needs of carers, and how these should be met?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest to declare.