Reviewer's report

Title: Promoting an Ethic of Engagement in Pediatric Palliative Care Research

Version: 3

Date: 7 August 2015

Reviewer: Miriam van Buiren

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article which is an interesting and important contribution to the field of Pediatric Palliative Care research. The authors point out that as little is known about health-related quality of life of terminally ill children and adolescents, even less is known through their own contribution but rather by proxy, asking their parents or care-givers. The authors propagate the participation of children and adolescents in Pediatric Palliative Care Research.

I have no Major Compulsory Revisions.

Minor Revisions:
1) in line 267 I have the impression "in" should be omitted.
2) in line 278 "." is missing between "community" and "The"
3) in line 288 "for" should be omitted
4) line 300: shouldn`t "panacea" be replaced by goal / purpose / aim ...
5) references no. 27 and 28, possibly also 61 are not referred to in the article.
6) within endnote ii the author refers to reference no. 49 => I assume reference no. 61 is meant.
7) endnotes i through iii are listed twice.

Discretionary Revisions:
1) in line 211 I would prefer to see a reference to this statement and a clarification as to how the diagnosis of a terminal illness effects the development of a child`s autonomy.
2) in line 221 I would suggest to omit "particularly".
3) in line 302 - 305 the authors claim, that "being centerpieces of PPC-research" can be considered a form of healing..." I would prefer to see a reference to this inventive statement.
4) in lines 310 to 313 the authors point out the future benefit of children`s participation. In this context one could also discuss a possible transferability of these new methods and insights to the understanding of and care for adults.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.