Reviewer's report

Title: Engaging Patients and Families to Create a Feasible Clinical Trial Integrating Palliative and Heart Failure Care: Results of the ENABLE CHF-PC Pilot Clinical Trial

Version: 0 Date: 30 May 2017

Reviewer: Natasja Raijmakers

Reviewer's report:

It is an interesting paper regarding the feasibility trial of ENABLE CHF-PC. It is impressive to read all the work has been done in this field of work.

However, it would gain in interest if some issues are resolved. Firstly, it would be great to give an more comprehensive description of the intervention and its development. Secondly, it would be great to give more insight in the experiences of the patients with the intervention, especially in light of the recruitment and its content. Thirdly, it is a bit risky to report differences in time in outcome measures due to the intervention, as the intervention and its supplementary data have been changed along the way of the feasibility trial. Furthermore, no control group is present and confounding is probably to be present. In a feasibility trail it would be better to report of the response rate, experiences with the outcome measures, etc. Lastly, the discussion needs some attention, especially the paragraph re the experience of the PI is in my opinion redundant.

Some minor comments

Page 5, introduction

To further support the claim that the trajectory of a cardiac death is difficult to predict, it can be useful to read and cite the work of Lynn and Adamson, Living Well at the end of Life (white paper).

"However, given the difficulties in prognostication, the prevalence of sudden cardiac death, [23] and an erratic illness trajectory,[24] it is not clear when or how to integrate palliative care in HF."

Page 6, setting and sample.

It would be helpful to further explain the criteria of eligibility of the patients. Patients with a diagnosis of NYHA Class III/IV and/or AHA Stage C/D HF were included. Why these two diagnosis? Are these patients in need of PC?
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.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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