Author’s response to reviews

Title: Advance directives from haematology departments: the patient's freedom of choice and communication with families. A qualitative analysis of 35 written documents.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Limoges, France, December 09, 2017

Dear Editor,

We would like to resubmit our manuscript entitled “Advance directives from haematology departments: the patient’s freedom of choice and communication within families. A qualitative analysis of 35 written documents” for publication in BMC Palliative Care.

You will find enclosed a detailed response to each point raised by the reviewer.

We would like to thank the reviewer for her valuable comments and suggestions which have allowed us to improve our manuscript.
Yours faithfully.

Ms. S Trarieux-Signol

Reviewer 1:

• Please provide clarification on why verbal consent was obtained, and not written consent. Please also provide clarification on whether obtaining only verbal consent was approved by the ethics committee.

According to french health regulations no written informed consent is required as the research is an observational study on registered data. Research applies to evaluate routine care. Patients were duly informed and oral consent was obtained prior to the research from all the participants. The Ethics Committee of the University Hospital of Limoges approved the fact that we have obtained verbal consent from the patients.

• Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship. Currently, the contributions of "assisted in gathering the ADs" are not clear and do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their names from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead. Please note that any changes in the list of authors requires the completion of the “Change in authorship” form. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, writing of the manuscript or general supervision of the research group - alone - does not usually justify authorship.

We have taken note of your remark and have removed the sentence. We modified the sentence: “JC, S Ma, AP, JB F, NS took part in discussions.”

• Declarations:

• If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use, and should be provided in the Declarations.

We have taken note of your remark and have added a list of abbreviations.

• At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different
colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

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