Reviewer’s report

Title: Increasing Trend in Hospital Deaths Consistent among Older Decedents in Korea: A Population-based Study using a Death Registration Database, 2001-2014

Version: 0 Date: 14 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Rosemary Ann Frey

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your manuscript. I have included some brief comments by section below:

Introduction:

Palliative care policy internationally has 'problematised' the provision of palliative care in the hospital setting, focusing instead on reducing hospital admissions and supporting patient's assumed preference to be cared for at home. The article follows that trend.

Current evidence is limited to the negative aspects of care and little attention paid to potential benefits of hospital admission. However recent qualitative research has shown that the benefits patients experience being in hospital extend beyond the treatment they receive, and these additional benefits appear to influence patients' preferences to return to the hospital during periods of acute illness. See Robinson J Robinson J. Are there any benefits to hospital admissions for people with palliative care needs? In: Care EAoP, (ed.). 2015. Also new research by Robinson et al (2017) has shown that feeling safe in hospital is a significant predictor of a preference to return to hospital during a period of acute illness in palliative care.

Methods-

In many populations, residential aged care is an important site of death (see Broad, J. B., Gott, M., Kim, H., Boyd, M., Chen, H., & Connolly, M. J. (2013). Where do people die? An international comparison of the percentage of deaths occurring in hospital and residential aged care settings in 45 populations, using published and available statistics. International Journal of Public Health, 58(2), 257-267) It would have been informative to include this variable in the regression model.

Results are adequately described.
Discussion is appropriate and informative. "It would be helpful to include some supportive evidence for the statement: "This discrepancy might reflect better development of other types of end-of-life services in some European countries":

Conclusion sounds more like a recommendation.

**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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