Reviewer’s report

Title: Bridging gaps in everyday life - a free-listing approach to explore the variety of activities performed by physiotherapists in specialized palliative care

Version: 0 Date: 05 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Matthew Maddocks

Reviewer’s report:

Möller and colleagues report on study which used a free-listing methodology to better understand the contributions of physiotherapy professionals to palliative care practice and teams. Therapists were asked to detail in writing the range of activities performed during their practice and the text was handling qualitatively to derive distinct categories of practice.

The approach is well suited to the research question and the findings are novel and, in my opinion, helpful to understand the role of physiotherapy in clinical practice. There was good evidence of theme saturation. The findings have face validity in that these topics appear to core to everyday practice.

My minor comments:

Tone down the claims about practice linking to declining in function (discussion, para 3). The data as presented are cross sectional, and not linked to patient characteristics, so to suggest the approach changes during the illness trajectory goes beyond the current data. If you have any detail about the patients receiving care these would be helpful to include.

The discussion is perhaps missing an opportunity to highlight how the findings can shape and direct research, particularly experimental designs, through a more specific and detailed understanding of interventional approaches and target outcomes.

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?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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