Reviewer’s report

Title: A painful experience of limited understanding: Healthcare professionals' experiences with palliative care of people with severe dementia in Norwegian nursing homes

Version: 0 Date: 15 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Kathryn Lord

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to read this interesting and well written paper. The impact of providing palliative care on healthcare professionals is of great interest and something which has limited focus in the wider literature. I really enjoyed reading this paper and felt that the authors explained why the research needed to be carried out well. The results section provided an interesting overview of the emotional challenges faced by healthcare professionals in this scenario and some interesting points for consideration in future training and support for individuals carrying out this role. There is currently some interesting work emerging on how prepared healthcare professionals feel to care for someone living with dementia and I would suggest that this be explored specifically in terms of palliative care with this patient group in future research. Disseminating these findings to improve healthcare professionals training would be great.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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Yes

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Yes

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