Reviewer’s report

Title: Multidimensional needs of patients living and dying with heart failure in Kenya: a serial interview study

Version: 1 Date: 04 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Julie Burkin

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

I have reviewed the article "Multidimensional needs of patients living and dying with heart failure in Kenya: a serial interview study" and have the following comments:

A really interesting study and very important piece of research into patients living with heart failure and their careers in SSA.

Abstract:

In results section - what does "information needs" refer to specifically?

It may be worth putting here what percentage / proportion of patients expected to be cured or valued info, etc., to give an idea of whether this was a global theme or just stated by a few participants.

The conclusion states that "Patients would benefit from holistic care" and "A palliative approach to services should be provided" which I don't disagree with but I think it would be better worded to say "this study suggests / supports the view that patients would benefit from holistic care..." etc.

As this is the first Kenyan study would it be worth recommended further research in the conclusion?

Background - p.5 line 2 (4th paragraph)
The authors state that they wanted to understand from patients their needs and what it is like for them to live with their illness - it would also be useful to state how this could inform / impact on healthcare practice.

Setting - p6 line 36
Explain a little more what New York Association Grade is?

Data Analysis - p8
First sentence needs expanding on. Also might be preferable to state professional roles rather than initials?

RESULTS - p9 line 8
Expand on what information needs means exactly.

Physical Symptoms - p9 - I like the use of patient quotes and this is very effective.

Information Needs - p14 line 54 - It would be good to know what proportions of people were interested in lifestyle changes of managing their condition as it states earlier in the article that most people think the condition is curative and are seeking cure rather than management.

Implications for Practice - p18 - might be worth more explicitly stating the opportunity for education, health promotion and facilitating self-management.

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons
CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal