Author’s response to reviews

Title: Implementation of knowledge-based palliative care in nursing homes and pre-post evaluation by cross-over design: A study protocol

Authors:

Gerd Ahlström (gerd.ahlstrom@med.lu.se)
Per Nilsen (per.nilsen@liu.se)
Eva Benzein (eva.benzein@lnu.se)
Lina Behm (lina.behm@med.lu.se)
Birgitta Wallerstedt (birgitta.wallerstedt@lnu.se)
Magnus Persson (magnus_c.persson@med.lu.se)
Anna Sandgren (anna.sandgren@lnu.se)

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Regarding Revised Manuscript “Implementation of knowledge-based palliative care in nursing homes and pre-post evaluation by cross-over design: A study protocol” (Manuscript ID PCAR-D-17-00055)

Dear Editor, Dr Maria Zalm

Thank you very much for your review of the manuscript. We appreciate the comments and have given them our full consideration. The enclosed version of the manuscript represents a revision in accordance with these comments, together with a few additional changes. The changes in the manuscript are marked with change tracking. We have provided responses to your comments below.

It is our hope that the revised version will be regarded as a considerable improvement. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

The comments of the editor:

1). Please reword the data analysis section so that it is clear that this part of the study has not yet been completed.
Our comments:

We have done the requisite rewording. Furthermore the rest of the manuscript has been reviewed and clarified regarding this matter too.

The comments of the editor:

2). Furthermore, please add a statement to the abstract and introduction to make it clear that this study is still ongoing.

Our comments:

We have revised the abstract and introduction and made it clear in both sections that the study is ongoing.

We have also reduced the number of words in the abstract since the previous version had a somewhat greater number than the guidelines permit.

The comments of the editor:

3). Power calculation

Please include a justification for the sample size to the methods section.

Our comments:

We have now clarified the sampling procedure and the question of sample size (page 11 under the headline Sampling and study participants). The evaluation has a mixed method design and the number of participants in each county was based on the quality criteria for qualitative method and quantitative method (Richards & Rahm Hallberg 2015). Regarding the quantitative methods, sample size is based on what is included in previous studies on the same instruments, in manuals for the respective instruments and in psychometric studies: at least 5 persons per item. Power calculation was not made in this project due to several methods and instruments.

Our additional comments:

Reviewer reports was not found on the website.

We have corrected an error in table 3 Sub Study 6 by replacing “next of kin” with “staff”.

We have corrected an error in table 3 Sub Study 7 by correcting the number of participating managers to 20.

The English language in the manuscript has been reviewed by a native English speaker.
The reference list is formatted with the style in EndNote for BMC Palliative Care. However, we noticed that the example on the website is not the same as in EndNote.

Yours sincerely

Gerd Ahlström

On behalf of all authors
Lund University, Tel: +46 46 222 19 16, e-mail gerd.ahlstrom@med.lu.se