Reviewer’s report

Title: Striving for a balance between leading and following the patient and family - nurses' strategies to facilitate the transition from life-prolonging care to palliative care: an interview study

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Jayne Brown

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for letting me see these changes, it is evident that the authors have taken on board the comments made. There are still a few specific changes to be made [see below] to improve readability and understanding, however, generally the paper is improved. I think that there is still some repetition of the findings in the article which if addressed would improve this paper further.

Page 2 Line 27: "after announcing the change" announcing is not the right word to use here - too hard.

Page 3 Line 24: "The transition to PC is associated with the experience of leaving a predictable and, hence, entering a new, unpredictable situation [6]." Change to "The transition to PC is associated with the experience of leaving a predictable and entering a new, unpredictable situation [6]."

Page 4 Line 24: "They have to face with patient's issues such as existential issues as well as about the dying process" - not clear re word.

Page 7 Line 4: "One of the RNs described that she wanted to be confident with the patient before speaking about bad news." Change to "One of the RNs described how she wanted to be confident with the patient before speaking about bad news."

Page 10 Line 34: "It was described as important to not pretending or making false promises. A balance between respecting patients' defense mechanisms and the RNs feeling to be honest was described." Change to: "It was described as important not to pretend or making false promises to the patient. A balance between respecting patients' defense mechanisms and the RNs need to be honest was described.

Page 10 Line 55: "Their strive towards this balance can be seen as central to RNs' work with patients who have just received information regarding their disease and the change in care from life-prolonging care to PC" change to "Their striving towards this balance can be seen as central to RNs' work with patients who have just received information regarding their disease and the change in care from life-prolonging care to PC"

Page 11 Line 4: "In a study about experiences of comfort among persons need of PC, they feels comfortable when the healthcare was based on compassion, hope, interpersonal, transpersonal and intrapersonal relationships [18]" Change
"In a study about experiences of comfort among persons in need of PC, Coelho et al found that patients felt more comfortable when healthcare was based on compassion, hope, interpersonal, transpersonal and intrapersonal relationships [18]."

Should read: The findings from this study showed….

**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

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