Reviewer’s report

Title: Is care staff equipped for end-of-life communication? A cross-sectional study in long-term care facilities to identify determinants of self-efficacy

Version: 0 Date: 03 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Lorraine Venturato

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript, which reports the secondary analysis of data from 2 Dutch cross-sectional studies on self efficacy and end of life communication. The manuscript makes interesting contribution to knowledge in this area and the results of this study raise some interesting recommendations, particularly for nursing and care home staff, in enhancing end of life communication and palliative care knowledge. The manuscript flows well, however, extensive editing is necessary to enhance the readability of the work. Please clarify the following point related to the ethical conduct of the study - particularly given that this study was deemed to not require ethical approval.

1. You note on p.6 that care staff were given a unique identifier and that the identifiers of staff who did not respond were provided to a contact person at each site? I assume then that the contact person was able to match the identifier with the person to send the reminder? How did you address anonymity for non-responders given that the contact person would know who had participated and who hadn't and, as it is often a manager or senior leader in the site who undertakes this role, what protections were in place for non-responders to avoid coercion?

Thank you.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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