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: 1 Date: 14 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Lorraine Venturato

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.

Thank you for your meticulously prepared Response to Reviewers. It has made the second review process very clear.

My remaining comments are:

There are still a few minor grammatical issues, particularly in the beginning of the paper:

Line 48 - "a significant proportion of people dies in long-term care facilities" should read "a significant proportion of people die in long-term care facilities"

Line 49 - "In the Netherlands, for example, it concerns 35% of the people with a chronic condition" could read "In the Netherlands, for example, approximately 35% of the people with a chronic condition die in long-term care settings annually"

Line 229 "..and knowledge of de definition of palliative care" should read "and knowledge of the definition of palliative care"

P7. lines 160-161 - I think there is some language confusion over the process of blinding the researchers to participant identity and the ethical concept of anonymity. In general, researchers are not anonymous as invitations to participate and cover letters on surveys often include researchers' names. I think what you are describing in this section is blinding although, given that this is not a RCT, there is no real benefit and it sounds like you could easily trace the identifier back to the participant identity if needed. I do not think the final sentence in that section adds anything - maybe consider aggregating the last 2 sentences - By means of a unique identification code, care staff that did not respond could be identified by the site contact person, who sent out the reminders (maximum 2) to non-responders. (This aligns better with your Response to Reviewers comments).
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.

Unable to assess

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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