Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in descriptions of palliative care in the cancer clinical practice guidelines before and after enactment of the Cancer Control Act (2007): Content analysis

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Asao Ogawa

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

Thank you very much for this interesting work I was able to review. For the better understanding of your work, I have some questions:

1. In Cancer control programs in Japan, the aim of "palliative care from the time when cancer is diagnosed" is different from the emphasis of palliative and end-of-life care. In cancer control programs 2nd, "palliative care from the cancer diagnosis" includes the supports for coping with cancer by primary care teams. So, this programs demand that the cancer designated hospitals provide the distress screening and that the physicians providing cancer treatments achieve the basic distress management skills. So, I wonder that the narrow definition of you adopted ("care given to a patient when there is no response to curative treatment and life-expectancy is less than one year") and domains are inappropriate for assessing the effects of the Cancer Control Act. Maybe it would be better to review the aims of Cancer control programs and modify the domains to grasp the meanings of the political proposals.

2. Some clinical practice guidelines, which did not show the collaboration with the Japanese Society of Palliative Medicine at the front description, were cooperated by recommending the committee members in the official way. I wonder that the deep consideration of the methodology are needed.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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