Reviewer's report

Title: Caregiver exposure to critical events and distress in home-based palliative care in Germany A cross-sectional study using the Stressful Caregiving Adult Reactions to Experiences of Dying (SCARED) Scale

Version: 0 Date: 26 May 2018

Reviewer: Yvonne Engels

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting, very relevant topic, as also recently has been shown during the EAPC conference in Bern. Still, caregiving burden receives too less attention in palliative care.

I would like to suggest to adapt the paper as follows:

Correction by a native speaker is necessary.

Background: much too long. Be more concise. End with the research question, which is now missing in the background.

Methods: could persons of 21 participate? IF yes, then 21 years of age or older.

The number of participants (response rate etc) is an outcome and needs to be in the results section.

Was the questionnaire culturally adapted for the German population or only translated? 0.59 is at the border of an acceptable Cronbach's alpha.

Why is, for educational level, chosen for having a level to be able to go to university?

Results: what does a mean score of 42 for general health mean? Is this high, low, moderate?

Can you explain more clearly the difference between tables 2 and 3?
And: in table 3 I don't understand the heading, as frequency score = 1 is mentioned in two columns.

I don't understand table 4. Why are there two columns, mentioned model 1 and model 2? Has a statistician been involved in performing and describing the analysis? Multivariate linear regression usually is represented in one model with different independent variables, which can be statistically significant or not. Please report the analysis in an adequate table and adequate text.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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