Reviewer’s report

Title: "Small, small interventions. Big, big role." Patient, care-giver and health-care worker experiences of a palliative care programme in Kerala, India: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: This is a small qualitative study that would appear to be part of an overall service evaluation. It is good practice to evaluate a service, especially one that has run for over 20 years. I would expect to see the latest qualitative evidence matched against previous evaluations. There are several methodological issues in the presentation of data that render this manuscript of low standard in its current state.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The presentation of results requires review. There are several styles to presenting quotes/data from individuals; the best practice is to present a participant code or ID, in its current format there is far too much identifying information. I appreciate the sample sizes are small, especially for the nurses and doctors but every attempt should be made to anonymize data. The data is also very repetitious and the themes poorly presented and discussed. The use of existing literature is poorly cited and used and only a minimal reference base used.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

The language of the paper is clearly of someone whose first language is not English; to render the paper suitable for an international audience this would require significant attention. The discussion section is repetitive and includes some results. The sample is largely of a population which would not characteristically fit into a palliative cohort in other countries; i.e. paraplegics. If this is to be argued the case as in Kerala there needs to be much more discussion and description of this and possibly include palliative care definitions explaining why such a condition is considered so. The conclusion refers to challenges in plural but should outline their totality to a greater extent.
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? 
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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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