Thank you for the opportunity to read and review this article. This article is on a topic of current high relevance and importance. There has been a significant shift in attempts to formalise compassion, across many domains of care and internationally. The article correctly, I think, explores the specificity and multiplicity of compassion in intensive care and palliative care contexts. The data is qualitative, which is, I think, appropriate given the aims of the research.

I notice the article has already had one round of revisions and it seems to have responded well to the first reviewers comments.

I had a couple of suggestions for discretionary changes.

1. I would like to have read more about how the clinicians were chosen (I know some are the authors) and also how the instances that the clinicians recorded were chosen by the clinicians. Right at the end the authors note that more than half of the contributions to the study came from one participant, I did wonder why this was the case?

2. The quote on page 9, lines 27 - 35 doesn't seem to clearly show what the authors claim that, 'compassion between members of the healthcare team was reflected in acts of debriefing and mentorship'. I think the point the authors are striving to make is important,
but this quote needs more introduction or a different quote should be used to clearly show the interpretation claimed.

3. The authors refer to 'artists' (p12). Could they clarify who 'the artists' are? Is this a general reference to some practitioners who are especially art-full in their care practices? Or is it actually referring to people producing art? If the former please be explicit and say what 'artists' means here. I assume this is people who attend to certain aspects of the care relation and/or engage in certain activities.

4. I am not clear about what the notion of pattern language brings to the analysis. Actually, I still am not sure what it is even though the authors offer a definition. I think it comes in rather late in the article and I wonder whether the authors really do need to include it. The article includes some very interesting data that suggests that compassion in context goes beyond language (e.g. is impacted by activities relations, situations), even though the data is how the clinicians articulate compassion.

Thanks again for asking me to review this article. I enjoyed reading it and think it adds original research to our understanding of the situated and complex nature of care-in-practice.

**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.
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:

Acceptable

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