Reviewer’s report

Title: Healthcare professionals’ views of palliative care for American war veterans with nonmalignant respiratory disease living in a rural area: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 30 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Lisa Graham-Wisener

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript. This is an interesting article, on an area which still receives a dearth of attention. I believe this article would be of interest to readers of BMC Palliative Care, though it could be strengthened in several areas-

Introduction

This could be restructured and developed further to provide a strong rationale for the focus on veterans, so as the inclusion does not appear incidental. Although the authors briefly state the heightened prevalence of NMRD in the veteran population, it would be important to stress the rationale to focus the research specifically on a veteran population rather than a general population sample.

The rationale to focus on a rural geographical location could also be strengthened. Be mindful of use of 'remote', definition varies internationally.

If the authors could clarify choice of 'America' throughout rather than 'United States'

Methods

Methods well described, though qualitative reporting guidelines could be cited. Detail on data storage superfluous.

Discussion

Findings on challenges with prognostication and disease trajectory could be linked to issues more broadly with non-malignant disease.
Although findings relate to the NMRD literature broadly, the parameters of how the findings may be generalised could be more clear. Similar to the introduction, the defining characteristics of the veteran population and how this relates to the findings could be developed further.

There could be more developed engagement with literature throughout, particularly in relation to implications for practice/service development.

Check grammar re use of tense, e.g. page 17

**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:

Acceptable
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