Reviewer's report

Title: Palliative care for patients with motor neurone disease and their bereaved carers: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 04 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Mary O'Brien

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for allowing me to review your manuscript, I read it with interest. It concerns an important topic which will be of interest to readers.

I have some comments about the paper.

It may be helpful to add 'bereaved carers' to the keywords

Literature review/background: While you indicate that the literature is international, it would be helpful to provide some indication of how international it is and where the evidence cited has originated from. Given the importance of the NICE MND guidelines I feel that these should be specifically referred to.

Methods: indicate how many people were approached to take part. Why a sample of 13? was this the total number of people who responded positively? I question the relevance of including the participants' occupations in the table. Where were the interviews conducted? were they all face to face? How long did the interviews last? When were the data collected? Which approach to thematic analysis was followed?

Findings: I question the inclusion of % in a qualitative study.

The findings would be enhanced by a little more interpretation and analysis. Often the analysis consists of a short single sentence supported by a quote, meaning that there is a lack of depth to the analysis. Additionally, the introduction to each overarching theme lacks depth.

It is slightly confusing that the quotes and sub themes are presented in the same style (italic font).

P14 line 316-the comparison with Ganzini et al should emphasise the difference in sample sizes and methodologies between the 2 studies, but I do question the comparison with such a small sample size and the qualitative nature of your study.

There are a few typos
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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