Reviewer’s report

Title: An instrument to assess the education needs of nursing assistants within a palliative approach in residential aged care facilities

Version: 0 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Felicity Hasson

Reviewer's report:

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Full title: An instrument to assess the education needs of nursing assistants within a palliative care approach

Overall this is a well written paper, providing a good insight into the process of instrument development, reliability and validity, and psychometric testing. The need to develop instruments and evidence base for this growing segment of the health and social care workforce is recognised.

Background:

The international relevance and reliance on the assistant role in aged care facilities and across global health and social care systems needs to be highlighted at the start of the paper.

Please move reference to education and issues relating to licensing, legislative regulatory requirements (Page 2 line 1011 (reference 11) up further in the introduction. This is applicable to a number of European countries.

Field testing procedure

Please clarify, from the 17 RACFs how many assistants were employed in total within the sites.
Discussion

Reference that assistants in RACFs in Assistants refers to a stable workforce this is not the same internationally (page 21 line 23). In addition the skills of an assistant internationally does not remain static rather role creep occurs which ensures that the assistant takes on/ picks up new roles/ skills.

Comparison of practical skills scores with other qualified, registered RACF staff is not surprising and does not add to the discussion. (Page 21 Line 44 -53).

The reference that PANA skills questionnaire is specific to the role of a NA may require attention (page 21-22 line 58-line5). These are generic nursing skills, not only applicable to assistant's role

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

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

Acceptable
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