Reviewer’s report

Title: Views of professionals and volunteers in palliative care on patient-centred care: a Q-methodology study in the Netherlands

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Anette Alvariza

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper about an important subject for future palliative care. However there are several parts of the manuscript that needs to be further elaborated. Please find my comments below:

All the way through the abstract and the manuscript I strongly react on the wording "palliative patients". There is no such thing as a palliative patients as it is not the patient him or her self that is palliative, but rather the illness (disease). This wording disturbs the reading of the manuscript. Please rewrite to a more proper wording, for example, patients with palliative care needs, or patients recieving palliative care.

Background

The authors have chosen the concept of patient-centered care but does not argue why this is chosen before the concept person-centered care wich is used more frequently the latest years. This should be mentioned and prefarrably compared and discussed in the background. There are several publications on person-centered palliative care.

Methods

The statements is a it confusing to read about. They could be further presented and it should also be explained how they were adjusted to palliative care. It would be helpful if the authors presented what kind of adjustments that were made based on the pilot interviews and what literature that were used.

Data collection

More information is needed also here. How were the professionals approched? How many were asked for participation and by whom? Were there any that declined?
Analyses

The analyses are a bit difficult to follow and the manuscript would benefit for a deeper description.

Results

The results make me wonder, what is really the difference between the two viewpoints? To me the name of the viewpoint 2 is not quite correct, since this viewpoint is about shared desicion, which at some point still puts the patient in the driver seat. Sitting in the passenger seat does not lead the thoughts of someone thats being involved in shared desicion to me. Could this be revised and could the authors more clearly explain the difference between the two viewpoints?

Also surprisingly, the family is not mentioned at all, not even in the discussion. As family is an important cornerstone if palliative care I belive this needs to at least be discussed in the discussion section.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal