Reviewer’s report

Title: The Exploration of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Behaviors of Advanced Care Planning and Its Related Predictors among Taiwanese Nurses

Version: 0 Date: 27 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Robert H. Vander Stichele

Reviewer's report:

This is a survey of nurses knowledge, attitude, and practices (CAP) in one Teaching Hospital in Taiwan regarding advance care planning (ACP). More knowledge on the attitudes of nurses regarding ACP in hospitals and nursing homes is crucial for the implementation of ACP in a national policy to foster palliative care, and proper End-of-Life decisions. The originality of this study lies with the focus on nurses not working with cancer patients but involved with chronic care patients.

The methodology is sound, and based on a well established international example (Zhou et al.). The background, discussion and reference list testify of a thorough knowledge of the problem. The presentation of the results is complicated, as numerical values of scales may not convey their clinical meaning easily. The tables are however well constructed. The reader can see that differences are often limited, and the numbers in subclasses may go low (e.g., Only 7 assistant head nurses). The findings with statistical significance are plausible, make sense, and are useful for a Barrier/facilitator approach in a theory of change. The discussion is elaborated and includes discussion of external literature at the appropriate places. The conclusions are within the scope of the data, although the recommendations for further policy may need more ground.

Minor comments:

The type of nurses (and their ladder) needs more explanation in the beginning or in the methods. See: N nurses, N2 nurses, Lead nurses, assistant head nurses, head nurses, APN nurses (in the ZHOU study), with some relation to years of professional training (college, bachelor, master).

Some phrases are incomplete or are confusing. Revision by a native speaker may be needed.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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