Reviewer’s report

Title: Telehealth in Palliative Care is Being Described But Not Evaluated: A Systematic Review

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Eileen Furlong

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your paper which addresses the important topic of Telehealth in Palliative Care with one primary objective and two secondary objectives. The Systematic Review is registered with PROSPERO.

Some questions/comments for consideration: In light of the objectives of your paper I suggest you reconsider your title

Pages 2, 3 & 4: Background literature needs more critical appraisal.

Page 4: Line 37: Did the authors use the same search terms as the 2010 review?

Page 6: Lines 4 - 27: Did the authors adapt each of the five databases and were Boolean or Truncation used? I suggest Telehealth be broadened to mhealth; internet health; electronic health. Was the grey literature screened?

Page 6: Line 34: Why were you not able to access full papers

Page 7: Line 4: Identify Wallace et al's criteria for critical appraisal in an appendix. This will also assist the reader with your Overview of Quality section on Page 9 and the rationale for your scoring.

Page 9: Line 8-14: You state 'low' sample sizes, but this could be appropriate to method.

Page 17: Line 16: All home telemonitoring studies required patients to input specific data....How was this inputted? Line 23: Were patients provided with equipment. Lines 54-59: Why are cost implications brought in under section addressing Types of telehealth interventions?

Page 18: Line 7 & 8: Expand on sentence which states that results of studies were generally positive.

Page 20 & 21: The discussion section could be enhanced with greater engagement with the literature and linking in the Digital Service Standard.

Pages 23 & 24: Some minor errors in referencing format
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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