Author’s response to reviews

Title: An examination of home-based end-of-life care for cancer patients: A qualitative study

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Response letter

Thanks for all your valuable comments on our manuscript. Here are our responses to all the comments.

To the editor,

1. Regarding your second research question: the way you have formulated it now, already anticipates on the findings, which is not logical.

The second research question has been revised (Line 18, page 3).

2. Please ask a native speaker to read the final manuscript and correct it where necessary.

The manuscript has been proofread this manuscript. I also submitted the certificate of English editing in the system. We also appreciated the editing service in the section “Acknowledgement”.

3. The title of the manuscript has been revised as “An examination of home-based end-of-life care for cancer patients: A qualitative study” according to the suggestion of the language editor.

4. The term “community health care center” in the manuscript has been revised as “community health service center” after checking the official website.
To Daisy Ermers, MD MSc (Reviewer 1):

1. Page 5, line 1-2 and 13-14 contain the same information. I would recommend the authors to add the following section (or some kind) after line 1 the other three authors. The codes were then discussed and the first author coded the data a second time, and all the authors reviewed and discussed the codes again, this process was continued till the final codes and themes were confirmed. And then remove this section under the paragraph 'rigor' (line 13-14).

The section under the paragraph ‘rigor’(line 11-14, page 5) has been removed.
The section was added in paragraph ‘data analyses’ (line 40-43, page 4).

2. Typographical errors:
o Page 4 line 18 the interviewer was an academic staff member with a doctoral degree and who had 5-year experience.
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 12, page 4).
o Page 4 line 23 Field notes were made during this interview, and
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 18, page 4).
o Page 5 line 42 the patient had to be in a stable condition
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 39, page 5).
o Page 13 line 13 the informants found that they were still not suitable for the local patients in this/our study.
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 42, page 12).

3. Difficult/incorrect sentences:
o Page 4 line 19-22. I think it would be clearer if the authors wrote: "The informants were interviewed individually in a quiet room in the community health care centers, except for three interviews the interview was conducted with two informants. Non-participants were not present during the interviews …

The sentence has been revised accordingly. Meanwhile, the suggestion of the English editor was also considered. Hence, the sentence has been revised as, “The informants were interviewed individually in a quiet room in the community health service centers, except for three interviews conducted with two informants.” (line 14-15, page 4)
Third, all the members of the research team were involved.
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 10, page 5).

In some centers the informants also suggested to the family members to transfer the patients to the hospice wards for the same reason.
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 8, page 7).

did not want the patients to die at home.
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 12, page 7).

social workers, volunteers, or psychologists, were seldomly involved.
The sentence has been revised accordingly. Meanwhile, the suggestion of the English editor was also considered. Hence, the sentence has been revised as, “staff with other backgrounds, such as social workers, volunteers, or psychologists, were seldom involved in home-based end-of-life care.” (line 21, page 7).

Only in one center would a social workers would follow
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 30, page 7).

establish a strong rapport
The sentence has been revised accordingly. Meanwhile, the suggestion of the English editor was also considered. Hence, it has been revised as, “the strong rapport”. (line 38, page 10).

Furthermore, it is impossible…” (line 36, page 12)

4. Small details:

seventeen out of 19. The introduction only contains percentages except for this outcome. Could the authors be so kind to change this.
The sentence has been revised accordingly (line 37-38, page 2).

I think the quote belongs to the sentence In only once centre … for the service, therefore the quote should be placed before the last sentence of this paragraph.
The sentence has been moved accordingly (line 8-9, page 6).

Page 7 line 23-25 I don't understand had the certificate in end-of-life care in the study centers no matter which department they came from.

The sentence has been revised as, “not all the health care providers who delivered the home-based end-of-life care held a certificate in end-of-life care in the study centers.” (line 23-24, page 7).