Reviewer’s report

Title: A Conceptual Model of Barriers and Facilitators to Primary Clinical Teams Requesting Pediatric Palliative Care Consultation Based Upon a Narrative Review

Version: 0 Date: 25 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Linda Oostendorp

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript addresses an important topic and a number of relevant inhibitors and facilitators are discussed in detail, supported by an illustrative case. Overall, I would recommend this manuscript for publication, however I feel that the manuscript would benefit from more signposting and information about the methodology used. While the individual paragraphs describing inhibitors and facilitators (pages 6-15) are mostly clear, it is unclear how these factors were derived, and why the authors chose to emphasise team level inhibitors and facilitators, and only briefly touch on individual clinician inhibitors (individual clinician facilitators are shown in Figure 1, but not described in the main text).

Suggestions to improve clarity include:

- Changing the title to make clear this manuscript focuses on pediatric palliative care;
- Adding more information about the aim, why did the authors focus on team level factors?;
- Adding more information about the methods (presumably the inhibitors and facilitators were derived from a literature review);
- The paragraph 'inhibited expression of sorrow/lack of social support' (page 9) would benefit from a more explicit explanation how this factor would inhibit referrals;
- Adding a paragraph after the last facilitator on page 15 to describe Figure 1 and explain how the factors described in this manuscript were combined with the prior model. It would be helpful to add a footnote to Figure 1 to indicate that the right half of the model shows the prior model developed by the authors;
- Adding more information about how the model can be used / clinical implications;
- Changing the conclusion in the abstract as this is not supported by the data and is different from the conclusion in the main text.
Minor textual suggestions

- The terms 'barriers' and 'inhibitors' seem to have been used interchangeably;

- One of the inhibitors is described as 'Sharing Serious News as a Team' in the main text, while it is described as 'Sharing serious news within the team' in Figure 1;

- In Figure 1 the inhibitor 'Lack of social support' is described separately, while in the main text this is grouped together with 'Inhibited Expression of Sorrow';

- There are a number of small language errors throughout the manuscript, e.g. 'fictionalized' (page 3, line 8), 'a set a of ..' (page 4, line 6), 'clinical teams need to have A shared mental model …' (page 11, line 8)

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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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