Author’s response to reviews

Title: The last week of life of nursing home residents with advanced dementia: a retrospective study

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Torino, December 11th 2019

Dear Sirs,

thanks again for the comments. The paper, that included your suggestion changes, was revised once again by a professional native English speaker. As you recommended, we did not track the changes but we are able to produce the version with tracked changes if required.
We accepted your suggestion but we rephrased the sentence differently.

Lack of communication between health care professionals and family carers is a barrier to the implementation of palliative care as family carers may be reluctant to accept that their relative is in the dying phase. However, the family’s understanding of the disease progression and of the dying phase does not always guarantee the implementation of palliative care. Other barriers are....

Important differences among countries do exist.

We kept the sentence “Important differences in palliative care delivery do exist across countries, and also among institutions within the same country. Italian NHs differ widely in the number of beds they have, the services they offer, and their quality of care, but very few provide palliative care consultations because we wanted to stress that in spite of well-known and documented differences across NHs, very few provide palliative care.

Should there be other suggestions, please contact us.

Looking forward to the publication of the paper.

Sincerely,
Lorena Charrier