Reviewers report

Title: Equity and the financial costs of informal caregiving in palliative care: a critical debate

Version: 0 Date: 26 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Erica Witkamp

Reviewers report:

I thank the authors for giving attention to such important and neglected topics, both costs of informal caregiving and equity in palliative care.

I do have some concerns about this paper.

Firstly it remains unclear what is considered to be end of life. The terms end of life, palliative and dying are all used. What is the time frame this paper is about? And what is the difference with caregiving in severe chronic situations?

Secondly I believe the topic is written from the perspective of a few countries, primarily in Great Britain. Because of the relation to the EAPC taskforce I had expected the paper to include more (varying and sometimes better) financial supportive systems in European countries. Information and evidence on that might be missing and in that case the context should be mentioned in the title or abstract.

Finally by combining both financial costs and equity issues, of which the latter also is on inequity in patients (and not only on family caregiving) I think the paper lacks some focus. I understand that inequity for patients relates to family caregiving, however to my opinion the authors may improve the manuscript by clearly emphasising (in-)equity related to the position of family caregivers.

Additionally some minor issues:
Could the authors pay some attention to the relation of education and equity?
Line 236: add the word 'care'.

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