Author’s response to reviews

Title: Unmet needs of patients with cancer in their last year of life as described by caregivers in a developing world setting: A qualitative study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Apt 1B Mira Flores
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Trinidad and Tobago.
9th December 2019.

The Editor
BMC Palliative Care.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The last year of life: Unmet needs of recently deceased cancer patients as experienced by caregivers in a developed world setting. A qualitative study

Please see below my list of revisions in response to the editorial comments.

1. Appendices would be better presented if referred to as tables and included within the body of the text for ease of read:

Appendices were re-formatted as figures and tables and placed within the body of the text as follows:

Section: Data Collection, Page 9, lines 2-19: Figure1 shows Interview Questionnaire

Section: Data Analysis & Synthesis, Page11, lines 2-12: Figure 2 shows Data collection sheet

Section: Results, Page 12, Table 1 shows Participant Demographics Matrix
Section: Results: Page 13 Table 2 shows Patient Demographics Matrix

Section: Unmet Needs, Page 14 Figure 3 shows The Major and Minor themes identified

2. Include a brief explanation of the term “data saturation” and a reference.

Section: Data Collection: Page 10, lines 3-4 give a brief explanation with reference cited.

3. Quotes used alongside the theme and sub-theme headings need to have a participant code by each.

Participant codes were inserted as follows:

MAJOR THEME INSTITUTIONS

Sub-theme General Services

Diagnosis, Page 15, line 10

Treatment, Page 16, line 9

Physical facilities, Page 17, lines 15

Emergency Care, Page 17, line 22

Access, Page 18, line 16

Inter-institution Coordination, Page 19, line 21

Sub-theme Medical and Nursing Care, Page 21, line 2

Sub-heading General Care, Page 21, line 6

Sub-heading Symptom Management, Page 21, line 19

Sub-heading Attitudes, Page 22, line 17

Sub-heading Communication, Page 23, line 10

MINOR THEME COMMUNITY
4. One of the limitations that should be noted is that only one participant was recruited from Tobago.

This was inserted in the section on Limitations, Page 38, lines 22-24

5. Inclusion of identifiable information in describing participants.

As specific consent was not obtained for the sharing of these facts about the participants, they were modified and significant identifiers removed as follows:

MAJOR THEME INSTITUTIONS, Sub-theme General Services

Sub-heading Treatment:

Page 16, line 13 - the daughter of a patient with lung cancer

Page 16, line 19 - for a patient with advanced rectal cancer

Sub-heading Emergency Care:

Page 18, line 12 – This son described…

MAJOR THEME INSTITUTIONS, Sub-theme Medical & Nursing Care

Sub-heading Communication

Page 23, lines 12-14 – These widows of different generations and educational backgrounds, the first elderly and poorly educated and the second, middle-aged and well educated…

Page 23, line 24 – This daughter found the doctors reluctant to discuss her father’s prognosis

Page 24, line 15 – the wife of a young cancer patient
Another caregiver reported…

MINOR THEME COMMUNITY

This young widow described…

Thank you for the opportunity to re-submit.

Respectfully,

Karen Cox