Reviewer’s report

Title: INTERNATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH PRIORITIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Version: 1 Date: 11 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Eve Namisango

Reviewer's report:

Reviewers comments

Main comments

The justification for mapping the themes on to the Donabedian framework for assessing quality reflecting structure, process and outcomes and key priority areas is not clear. The rational should be explained. For example, developing countries prioritize the WHO public health approach to scaling up access, we also have strategies geared towards health systems strengthening inclusive of quality assurance- this makes to the WHO building blocks framework more useful. The framework perspective should be situated and explained- in its current form its way too brief and unclear.

The finding of the voice of the care provider dominated, calling for more inclusive means to capture the patient and family voice- I would say, this could be due to the limitation of the search terms, PPI studies would capture more of such engagements.

How evidence based is this recommendation given that disease and specialist specific studies were excluded "however, the dearth of evidence around disease trajectories and palliative care for non-cancer populations was highlighted as a priority for future research."

Minor comments

From the narrative the search yielded 10,325 studies but the flow diagram has 4363

What does this exclusion criteria mean "wrong outcomes?"

I disagree with this conclusion "A review of the international palliative care priorities generated a list of common denominators within the global palliative care landscape" - The coverage of the 10 studies presented doesn't support a "global conclusion" in the strict sense. Please tone this down.
Please provide a few lines to explain how these scores (ratings are generated).

Page 10-the authors list several countries and then seem to list Africa as country as well, please review for consistency.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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