Reviewer’s report

Title: Who needs and continues to need Paediatric Palliative Care? An evaluation of Utility and Feasibility of the Paediatric Palliative Screening Scale (PaPaS)

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Reviewer: Eve Namisango

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Who needs and continues to need Paediatric Palliative Care? An evaluation of Utility and Feasibility of the Paediatric Palliative Screening Scale (PaPaS)

This paper addresses an important research question in the field of paediatric palliative care.

The background should be revised to discuss the state evidence regarding the approaches to screening for paediatric palliative care services. The give a lot of attention to things like length of stay, survival, trajectories etc, but these can be summarized and provide room to focus on the state of evidence for screening for PPC services.

Page 3 Methods

The content under the sub-title of "design" does not suit the sub-title, please review.

Please move the study objectives to the introduction section, it can be a sub-section of last few sentences after the introduction. The methods should be presented after stating the study objectives.

I would suggest the following lay out for better coherence.

Methods - state the study design, then setting and data collection methods, approaches to data analysis - state the hypotheses under this section.

Page 4 study procedures - please state what kind of information warranted exclusion of records.

Results

Table 1, please present measures for data dispersion for continuous variables i.e interquartile range for medians and standard deviations for means. Please be clear on how you work with the age variable, is it years or days?
Tables 2 and 3, how were the t and chi square tests conducted for the instances where there were 0 observations (i.e. 15 above, column -discharged? Please include a footnote to explain—this is a very important point and should be addressed carefully.

Please include the means and standard deviations or effect size for readers to appreciate the mean differences between the two groups as indicated.

Discussion

Please introduce paragraphs to separate key points for easy navigation.

The limitations for secondary reviews and the implications for the findings should be discussed in detail. It is interesting that these records mirror the study information needs, were there some potentially useful data for these research questions but were not available in the secondary data?

**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.

Unable to assess

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

Yes

**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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