Reviewer’s report

Title: Compassion fatigue, watching patients suffering and emotional display rules among hospice professionals: a daily diary study

Version: 0 Date: 09 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Noemí Sansó

Reviewer's report:

In my opinion, this is a good job because it deepens the therapeutic relationship in the field of palliative care and this is of great significance for the reasons presented in the introduction.

About "Participants and procedure", it would be interesting to have more information on how to select the two hospices. Moreover, I would appreciate if the authors describe in more detail the two selected hospices, they should answer to questions such as: what population do they attend? How many workers do they have? How is it funded? etc.

The authors said: "A total of 47 health workers were eligible to participate in the study" and I wonder what those criteria would be to be eligible.

The main weakness of this study is its research design because it has some flaws. The authors used a diary booklet to assess daily fluctuations of two variables: emotional job demands and emotional work requirements. Both are evaluated using adapted scales and the authors do not describe sufficiently well the method they used to obtain the final elements. In my opinion, information on this problem is missing.

The Cronbach's alpha value for the "Daily emotional job demands" is missing.

In addition, related to socio-demographic elements, to protect anonymity, important information is lacking. I think that other ways of ensuring an anonymous response could be used.

About "Limitations": the authors describe some of the limitations of the study but, in my opinion, they should have developed some problems such as: the small sample, the lack of use of validated scales (adapted scales are not validated), defects of design and the brief "time perspective" they take (to avoid recurring cross-sectional designs, choose this longitudinal design but only for a period of eight business days).

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

No

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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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