Reviewer’s report

Title: Extending life for people with a terminal illness: a moral right or an expensive death? Exploring societal perspectives

Version: 2 Date: 11 November 2014

Reviewer: Kristin Bakke Bakke Lysdahl

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This is a study addressing the important issue of resource allocation in healthcare. A comprehensive mixed methods approach is used to investigate UK societal perspective in relation to the relative value of life extension for people with terminal illness, which should be of interest beyond the UK setting. Overall, the paper is thoroughly prepared and only a few critical comments are provided below.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The method used in the study is generally well described. However, some more details about how the statement sets were designed could have been provided (in the methods section or in an appendix), e.g. regarding how the interviews were performed, background characteristics of the persons interviewed etc.

2. The factors are stated to represent three distinct perspectives, which may seem confusing when the correlation between factor 1 and 2 is 0.68 (Results, third paragraph).

3. Limitations of the work are stated, regarding generalization, and most importantly regarding the policy implications. Further discussions of the methods used would improve the article, e.g. regarding the coverage of the statement sets, the added value of the audio-recorded interviews after completion of the Q sort. Did the latter e.g. contribute to understand reasoning behind the importance of both individual choice and preciousness of life in factor 2?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.