Reviewer’s report

Title: Decision making on organ donation: the dilemmas of relatives of potential brain dead donors

Version: 2  Date: 27 January 2015

Reviewer: Nichon E Jansen

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revision
1. I personally prefer to use the word ‘potential organ donor’ instead of ‘patient’. This makes clear that there is a patient phase and a donor phase.

Minor essential revision
2. I have a comment regarding sentences 282-284. The study underscores the importance of decoupling (‘waiting with the donation request and giving relatives the time to realize that their beloved has died’). In The Netherlands (and other European countries (1) in practice the moment of approaching families for organ donation is more and more before final confirmation of neurological death in the DBD donor, but after treatment is futile. So the suggestion of the authors for decoupling does not match the situation in practice.

3. Second comment is on sentences 318-319. ‘In our study a DCD was not suggested to any of the non-donor family who refused. It was shown that the possibility of DCD led to less refusal (25)’. The reference used is not correct for DCD, because the article of Morales et al. is about uncontrolled DCD, while in study of de Groot controlled DCD is meant.

4. An abstract is missing and has to be added.

1) Jansen et al. When are bereaved family members approached for consent to organ donation? Commentary from 10 European member states. Organs, Tissues and Cells. 2014 (17);101-112.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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