Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceptions and intentions toward medical assistance in dying among Canadian medical students

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2018

Reviewer: Morten Magelssen

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-conducted study which indicates that a majority of Canadian medical students are willing to perform MAID and that certain demographic characteristics, notably religious attendance, predict attitudes.

The article is well-written and the conclusions drawn from the results are appropriate as far as I can tell. The discussion is nuanced and sensible. I recommend publication.

The Achilles heel of the study is the poor response rate, as acknowledged but not made a big deal of by the authors. It would be interesting to know in further detail how respondents were invited to participate. Were there features of the invitation email, such as the terms employed, that were likely to induce certain respondents to participate and others not? Consider including the invitation email among the article's online appendices.

Several important demographic characteristics were used in the analyses. However, what about how far the students had proceeded in their medical studies? One arguably plausible model of the development of student attitudes is that during the medical study they go from being laypeople, sharing the attitudes of the general public, to being socialized into the profession and being exposed to and acquiring attitudes characteristic of the profession. Thus it would be interesting to examine the potential impact on attitudes of which year students were in.

Line 148: the p-value cannot be below 0.000; write it as p<0.001.
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.

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

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

Acceptable

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