Reviewer’s report

Title: The significance of information after discharge for colorectal cancer surgery - a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 22 September 2014

Reviewer: Di Giulio Paola

Reviewer’s report:

to be resubmitted with major revisions

Dear Sirs,

the topic is very interesting but the article need some revisions before being considered for publication.

Introduction: the issue of patient information before discharge need to be better introduced, with special reference to the problems of cancer patients after a colon surgery.

Method. In the description of the discharge interventions you state that information delivered before discharge is scarce and not well organized, thus one wonders why you want explore patients experiences: maybe preferences and information needs would have been more appropriate.

Interviews: maybe details on the number of pages of interview could be avoided.

Quite a few information provided in the discussion in the methods paragraph should have been provided in the methods session to justify some choices (see lines 1-8 and then 16-21 and following page, pag 24)

Findings (better Results). Most of the results (pag 11-14) are obvious and expected: bodily changes after surgery, needs for information, the fact that they felt “surprisingly” unprepared after having received scanty information at discharge, the fact that if one is prescribed chemotherapy it may become a major concern. Since the article is also too long, these results could be synthetized, to concentrate from page 15, line 8 on.

Discussion. The discussion is somehow scholarly and some parts should be reported in the methods (see above). Please do not divide the discussion in paragraphs. I would suggest to discuss and compare your results with other papers. Six lines are dedicated to patients who do not seek for information while you did not find any in your sample. If differences in needs and perceptions in the first and last week are an important issue for discussion, more space to this results should be given in the results session. Is patient satisfaction an issue explored in your paper? (see line 13-20). If yes it should be reported in the results.
Conclusions. The conclusions should be more challenging, highlighting more the original results of your paper.