Reviewer’s report

Title: Registered Nurses Experiences of Managing Depressive Symptoms at Care Centres for Older People: A Qualitative Descriptive Study

Version: 0 Date: 16 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Michal L. Boyd

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this qualitative study describing the perceptions of registered nurses (RNs) working with depressed older people in elderly care clinics. This research addresses an important area of concern as the population of older people grows. The findings are relevant for other nurses providing interventions for older people that are depressed. This paper provides an international Swedish healthcare perspective and also describes the relatively new initiative of RNs working in Elderly Care clinics in the primary care setting. Below are specific comments about the paper.

1. The major issue with this manuscript is that it is rather hard to read with many awkward sentences. It is clear that this is an English translation from Swedish by sentence structure and unusual word choices. Major English translation editing is required.

2. The introduction needs to include more information describing the new Swedish elderly clinics and how they are different than usual primary healthcare.

3. The manuscript is much too long and could be cut down to half its volume. There seems to be concepts that are reiterated several times. Major editing is needed to create a much more concise and readable product.

4. Citations need to be structured correctly. Citations numbers should be at the end of sentences, and 'ibid' is not used.

5. The term 'Elderly' is often not used in recent times because it is seen as pejorative and stigmatising. An alternative term is older people or older adults.

6. The abstract is very difficult to understand due to awkward sentences. It needs to be edited and rewritten. The main four themes from the research need to be included in the findings section and the conclusion could be edited down and more concise.
7. There needs to be more background literature in the introduction to support statements of fact that are made. For instance, the first sentence of the introduction states: "Depression and depressive symptoms are among the most common mental disorders in older people. However, both are underdiagnosed, undertreated and, often, overlooked by healthcare professionals, or simply seen as a natural consequence of the aging process." However, there are no citations to back up these statements.

8. On page 3, the concept of "diathesis-stress perspective" is introduced. Please define this concept.

9. Please describe the "Elderly Care clinics" more clearly and how these are different from usual primary healthcare. There appears to be quite a lot of variation about how these clinics are conducted and it would be helpful if this variation was described more fully.

10. In the methods it is not clear that content analysis was used as the main qualitative methods. Please provide more explanation about why content analysis was chosen for analysis and its uniqueness as a qualitative research analysis method.

11. The findings could be edited down for conciseness and to increase clarity. Some of the quotes don't really match the narrative. It would also be helpful if there were more quotes provided that illustrated the findings.

12. The discussion re-describes the findings in too much detail. There needs to be much more discussion of how the literature supports the findings, rather than restating the findings.

Overall, the focus of this paper as proposed by the title and abstract is an important addition to the scholarship about caring for depression in older people and the role nurses play in this. However, the paper the is very difficult to read and requires extensive English editing. It is also too long and therefore the important messages get lost the volume of the paper. The paper needs to be much more concise and more illustrative quotes are needed to support the themes in the findings.

**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.

Unable to assess
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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