Reviewer’s report

Title: Parents and nurses telling their stories: The perceived needs of parents caring for critically ill children at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 15 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Vanessa Madrigal

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript revision and response. The methods and results are strong, and conclusions should be disseminated. I continue to be concerned, however with the grammar, and readability of the text. Many of the new additions have multiple run-on sentences that confuse the meaning of the sentence itself, and cause unnecessary distraction. Sometimes the use of transition words (therefore, but..) are not accurate, and also add confusion. I include a couple of examples below, but these are by no means comprehensive. The text requires a thorough revision by a dedicated native speaker and writer who can assist in stream-lining and editing for clarity and accuracy.

Commentary on specific pages is a reference to the pdf (not original manuscript).

Abstract:
Results section: New sentence is a run-on sentence, and grammar and language causes a lack of clarity of the results.

Intro:
Page 9, line 24: instead of "while in the ICU"…. Consider "In some studies, parents have reported…” and then later in line 43 drop the word "therefore…".

Methods:
You describe "purposive sampling strategy on page 11 line 26…Enroll is misspelled in the same sentence.
What was that inclusion criteria: what helped further identify patients as "critically ill" ?
Page 12, line 55 should read "difficult" not "difficulty"
Page 16 important should read "importance". First sentence in the section "Being informed" needs changing for example could start by saying "Nurses perceived…”

Please give a little more background to current visitation policy: I learned later in the manuscript that it was one parent at bedside always? But extended family friends or other parent for only two hours / day? Is that correct?

What is the role of doctors? Are they in charge of rounds? Are they also asked to do some of these tasks such as update parents? OR are they not available?
Results:

Under flexible visiting policy:
The following is confusing: "Parents thought that family visits is encouraging, raise their spirits and gives them a sense of love and belonging". Who are the family visits encouraging to? The patients? Or the parents? Who's spirits were raised?

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.

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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