Reviewer's report

Title: Developing Family Rooms in Mental Health inpatient units: an exploratory descriptive study.

Version: 2
Date: 15 December 2014

Reviewer: Silvia Krumm

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent paper which addresses family rooms as an innovative but understudied issue within the growing field of family-focused mental health services. The paper provides a methodically sound basis for the implementation of family rooms for in-patients services. From my point of view, there are only a few recommendations and suggestions for revision.

Minor Essential Revisions

Background:

• While the author’s short remarks on some philosophical aspects of space are interesting there is only a looser connection to the research question and especially to the result and discussion chapter. Thus, I would suggest either to shorten this chapter or to relate the findings to the assumptions in the discussion chapter.

Methods:

• Since the categories have been developed (at least in part) from questionnaires and interview guide, the authors obviously used an inductive-deductive analytic approach. The authors should specify their approach.

Results:

• The data from questionnaires with nurse managers (n=7) have been analysed and presented together with interview data (n=20). Remarks from nurse managers were not specifically labelled in the results chapter. Did nurse managers’ remarks not differ from nurses’ remarks? Since questionnaires are introduced as a separate data source, the authors should clear this point. Comparisons between nurse managers and nurses could be interesting because of different professional roles, e.g. more or less responsibility.
Discretionary revisions

Introduction:
• The need for family rooms within mental health units is addressed from a rather general level. It could be helpful to point to the need for family rooms from children’s perspectives specifically.
• The definition for family rooms seems to be given by the authors. Please consider something like “We define family rooms as…”

Methods:
• How many nurses have been asked or invited for interview?

Discussion:
• Line 390: It should be specified if these are parents of minor children.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.