Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of the quality of care relationships in long-term care: A participatory study

Version: 0 Date: 27 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Anja Declercq

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and innovative paper on a very relevant topic. In times of integrated care and breaking through silo's, looking at care relations across sectors is important.

Some remarks:

- There is no information on how and on the basis of what criteria the three organizations were selected, and on how they are similar or different to other organizations in the same sector.

- There is some more text needed on the choice of working with co-researchers and on the way this is organized. Why was this method used? The co-researchers were different in each organisation. This is a bit contradictory to the aim of the research: if you want to look at similarities, why not construct one team of three co-researchers, each from one of the organizations, so they can also influence each other? What was the reasoning behind this, and what influence may this choice have had on the results.

- A convenience sample was used. Can some more info be given on possible bias?

- In the description of the results, it seem that 'care relation' has been defined very broadly. The contextual factors of course have an influence, but are of a different nature then the other, interpersonal factors. Why were these included?

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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