Reviewer's report

Title: Specialist palliative care support is associated with improved pain relief at home during the last 3 months of life in patients with advanced disease: analysis of 5-year data from the national survey of bereaved people (VOICES)

Version: 0 Date: 13 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Christoph Ostgathe

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for the possibility to review this manuscript that I read with great interest. The data presented is impressive, the methodology is sound, the conclusions drawn are reproducible. The issue fits into the scope of BMC Medicine. The manuscript contains very important data for Medicine in general and Palliative Care in particular. Hence, I can fully recommend to publish it. There are only very minor remarks, that can easily be solved by the authors.

Content:
It may not be fully clear to an international readership whether the named institution are part of what we would call specialist or generalist palliative care. In most times the paper just names it palliative care. For me a clarification would help.

Formal
Page 4 line 89 relieved instead of relived
Page 7 line 173 one bracket missing it should be (........ (52.1))
Page 8 line 200 compared instead of Compared
In some of the tables the percentages do not sum up to 100% (sometimes 99.9, sometimes 100.1)

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.

Not applicable

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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