Reviewer’s report

Title: Towards evidence-based palliative care in nursing homes in Sweden: a qualitative study informed by the organizational readiness to change theory

Version: 1 Date: 07 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Ana Baumann

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the review of the authors, and the added details helped understand the goal of the study and methodology. The added text, however, gave me some different concerns, detailed below:

- Please define implementation strategy (line 120). So, to clarify, the intervention was really aimed at increasing the knowledge around evidence-based palliative care principles through educational booklets. But then if that is the case, wasn't the intervention delivered? I am sorry, but I am still confused (and this may be just me) about what is the specific intervention if it is not the delivery of the booklets with knowledge about palliative care.

- Based on that, the authors mention that fear or hesitancy was also a barrier acknowledged by the participants (lines 509-510). If the intervention is still being developed (again, I am still confused about this), how will this barrier be addressed? Which literature could inform how to address this barrier? Would adding role plays, for example, help?

- I am unsure if I am convinced with the rationale for not interviewing staff (lines 488-492). If we revisit Weiner's definition of organizational readiness, the definition states that readiness is a multi-level construct and, exactly because they will probably be the ones potentially implementing the intervention (line 527), shouldn't their voices be heard?

- My main concern, however, is with the added paragraphs in the discussion. The authors state that ORC has not been widely used as a framework; however a simple search gives me numerous articles using ORC, including reviews. Please add citations and strengthen the argument of what is missing in the literature.

- The authors indicate an interesting finding, regarding fear or hesitancy among the staff around dying persons. Emotional aspects, as the authors highlight, could be a barrier (or facilitator?) to implementing evidence-based interventions… where would the authors put...
such aspect in the organizational factors associated with readiness to implement palliative care? Which theory could be used to support/address this finding?

Also, related to the last paragraphs: the authors talk about the timing of implementation, and suggest that insufficient time and lack of motivation among staff can be time-related. I would be interested in seeing citations of papers indicating how barriers or facilitators could potentially change depending on time of implementation. I think that this is a very interesting argument and other readers may be interested in learning more as well.

- Line 144: is it experience from or with palliative and geriatric care?

In summary, a like a little more detailed citation and theoretical justification for the study could be beneficial for the IS community.

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An article of limited interest

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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