Reviewer’s report

Title: Minding the adolescent in family-based inpatient treatment for anorexia nervosa: A qualitative study of former inpatients’ views on treatment collaboration and staff behaviors

Version: 0  Date: 04 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Renee Rienecke

Reviewer's report:

The purpose of this study was to assess the experiences of adolescents during a family-based hospitalization, and to examine which staff behaviors and skills were deemed important by patients. Two main themes and 8 subthemes were identified.

The introduction may benefit from a more thorough discussion of findings regarding the therapeutic alliance in FBT, and how it differs for parents and adolescents.

Method, pg. 7, line 143: How was "normal" body weight defined?

Method, pg. 7, lines 144-145: How were diagnoses determined?

Method, pg. 7, line 159: "Some patients were offered supportive individual therapy…” How many patients received individual therapy? How was it decided who would get individual therapy?

Method: Can the authors provide a bit more information on the hospital stays and how they corresponded to the different FBT phases? After 20.8 weeks in the hospital, were the adolescents still in phase 1 at discharge or had they started to move into phase 2? If they moved into phase 2, how was this accommodated within the structure of the inpatient stay?

Method: Can the authors describe any other programming the adolescents received during their inpatient stay? Were they participating in group therapy?

Discussion: Improved collaboration was desired by the adolescents. However, FBT is structured the way it is in part because working collaboratively with a patient with an ego-syntonic illness, particularly at the beginning of treatment, tends to not be particularly productive. What do the authors think increased collaboration with adolescent patients who are ill enough to need hospitalization would look like?

Some information on patients' progress during treatment would be helpful. How much weight did they gain? Were there improvements in eating disordered behaviors and psychopathology? If the current inpatient arrangement is effective in starting the process of recovery, how might increased collaboration with the adolescent affect that?
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.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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