Reviewer’s report

Title: Brief Engagement and Acceptance Coaching for Community and Hospice Settings (the BEACHeS Study): Protocol for the development and pilot testing of an evidence-based psychological intervention to enhance wellbeing and aid transition into palliative care

Version: 0 Date: 31 May 2019

Reviewer: Rachel Starkings

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this well-written paper. I only have a few queries for the authors as the paper provides a good background to the protocol with clear methodology for the reader to follow. There are some small grammatical errors within the manuscript (e.g. line 198 should say 'one of' instead of just 'one') which would benefit from a final review.

Methods/Design:

- How have you selected the hospices to be included in this project?

- Can you expand on the protocol-specific training for the psychologists/psychotherapists providing the ACT intervention? How many therapists will be involved in the project and will patients see the same therapist throughout the intervention?

Intervention:

- In regards to the summary sheets provided to carers, are they able to use these for personal benefit or are they purely to help reinforce activities for the patient?

Procedure:

- You note that intervention sessions will take place at the clinical service site - does this mean the relevant hospice?

- If a participant is completing the daily diaries using a pen and paper method, how will you know if they miss 3 consecutive entries?
Table 2:

- There are 3 intervention sessions plus the one-month follow up, but should there not be 4 intervention sessions plus follow up for a total of 5?

- The daily diary collections are only listed for baseline but I presume these are continually collected over the intervention to measure process change?

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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