OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://brief.land/briefland/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

Health Scope
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Peer Review Report for "The Need for Palliative Care During COVID-19 Pandemic in Iran; a Letter to Editor"

Author(s): Asal Sadat Niaraees Zavare, Faezeh Akbari, Fatima Rezaei

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 14 Apr 2020
Revised Date: 14 Jun 2020
Accepted Date: 18 Jun 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 2 May 2020

Dear AE,
1- This letter to editor does not address a new and significant point.
2- In fact, the author does not seem to have a clear understanding of the crisis.
3- COVID 19 was initially a crisis because it was unknown.
4- Therefore, governments or health care providers should provide affordable services as soon as possible.
5- In our country, although palliative care is provided in some cases, it is a long way to reach the desired state. How can this be considered in a crisis?
6- The priority of COVID 19 is crisis and intervention in crisis.
7- Palliative care is invaluable at the time and place.
In my opinion, there is no important point that is appropriate for this journal.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 4 May 2020

Dear AE,
it is necessary the authors rewrite the text based on the following:
- First, the palliative care services and supportive care should be defined in one line (with reference to the source)
- The need to provide the palliative care services in countries and its impact on health costs and respect for the rights of patients and clients
- In what areas and for what groups is this care covered in the world?
- At present, and according to the report of the Center for Supportive and Palliative Care, Iran's position is in which grouping:
- Group one: without any activity
- Group Two: Capacity building for palliative care
- Group three: Provide palliative care in some areas
- Group 4: Integration approach and integration of care
- Mention briefly the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in Iran and the need to provide this care in Iran.
- What has been the level of success and problems during Covid-19 pandemic in Iran?
- Author's suggestions for solving this problem.
Regards

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 4 May 2020

Dear EIC
The reviewer(s) have recommended publication, but also suggest some major revisions to the manuscript. Therefore, I invite the author to respond to the reviewer(s)' comments and revise his manuscript.
Kind regards,

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) 5 May 2020

Dear Author,
The reviewers' comments are mentioned. Please correct the details as mentioned above carefully according to reviewers' request.
Thanks.

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Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Reply to Reviewer 1

(The revises based on reviewer 1 comments are marked by yellow highlight in the article.)

1- Reviewers' Comment: *This letter to the editor does not raise a new and significant point and in fact, the author does not seem to have a clear understanding of the crisis.*
Quid 19 is initially a crisis because it is unknown. Therefore, governments or health care providers should provide affordable services as soon as possible. And in our country, although palliative care is provided in some cases, it is a long way from reaching the desired state. How can this be addressed in a crisis?
The priority of Quaid 19 is crisis and intervention in crisis.
Palliative care is invaluable in its time and place.
Authors' answer: With respect and appreciation to the opinion of the reviewer 1, in this article, we have pointed out the problems that COVID-19 pandemic has created in Iran and the importance of palliative care in alleviating these problems. We used the opinions of the hospital managers who are engaged directly in service provision and crisis. We added some additional description to clear up the ambiguities in the article. The authors of the article do not think that palliative care can be started quickly in this crisis as a fast intervention, but we said that we should learn from this crisis in order to impose less preventable pain and suffering on people in future crises. Iran has a long way to go to achieve the desired level of palliative care, but there is no doubt that steps need to be taken.

2- Reviewers' Comment: *In my opinion, there is no important point that is appropriate for this journal.*
Authors' answer: By publishing this article in the health scope journal, we can remind decision-makers of the importance of palliative care and the valuable benefits it can provide in critical situations. The importance of this issue has been largely neglected in Iran, while in developed countries, palliative care has been considered in the health system and crisis planning since many years ago.

Reply to Reviewer 2

(The revises based on reviewer 2 comments are marked by blue highlight in the article.)

1- Reviewers' Comment: Dear author, it is necessary to rewrite the text based on the following:

- First, the palliative care services and supportive care should be defined in one line (with reference to the source)

- The need to provide the palliative care services in countries and its impact on health costs and respect for the rights of patients and clients

- In what areas and for what groups is this care covered in the world?

- At present, and according to the report of the Center for Supportive and Palliative Care, Iran's position is in which grouping:

Group one: without any activity

Group Two: Capacity building for palliative care

Group three: Provide palliative care in some areas

Group 4: Integration approach and integration of care

- Mention briefly the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in Iran and the need to provide this care in Iran.

- What has been the level of success and problems during Covid-19 pandemic in Iran?

- Author's suggestions for solving this problem.

Authors' answer:

We have modified the article based on the proposed arrangement as follows:

- We added a definition of palliative care according to the International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care to the text, but unfortunately we couldn't find any valid one-line definition.
- We added need for PC around the world, the effect of PC on health costs, and PC as a human right to the text
- We added target groups and conditions that need palliative care to the text
- We added Iran's position of Palliative Care Development to the text

- We organized the text about problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to provide palliative care in Iran, based on the recommended arrangement of reviewer 2.
- We added the solution of authors for covid19 crisis and future such crises in last paragraph of the article.

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Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) 8 Jun 2020

Dear AE,
- What has been the level of success and problems during the Covid-19 pandemic in Iran?
- What has been done during the Covid-19 pandemic in Iran at the moment?
Regards

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 8 Jun 2020

Dear EIC
The reviewer(s) have recommended publication, but also suggest some minor revisions to the manuscript. Therefore, I invite the author to respond to the reviewer(s)' comments and revise his manuscript.
Kind regards,

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 9 Jun 2020

Dear author
According to reviewer comments, the manuscript needs "Minor Revision".
Best Regards

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Reply to Reviewers

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You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Reply to Reviewer 1

(The revises based on reviewer 1 comments are marked by yellow highlight in the article.)

1- Reviewers' Comment:

- What has been the level of success and problems during Covid-19 pandemic in Iran?

Authors' answer:

Thank you for the comments, dear Reviewer. Iran's level of success in Covid-19 pandemic crisis and some problems during Covid-19 pandemic in Iran added to the text.

2- Reviewers' Comment:

-What has been done during Covid-19 pandemic in Iran at the moment?

Authors' answer:

Most Important Initiatives of Iran during Covid-19 added to the text.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (2) 18 Jun 2020

Dear AE,
The desired changes were made.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (2) 18 Jun 2020

Dear EIC
Based on the authors' answers to the reviewers' comments, the reviewer(s) have recommended publication.
Kind regards.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (2) 18 Jun 2020

Dear Authors,
Your article has been accepted for publication.
Best Regards