

## Peer Review Report

# Review Report on CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPING PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES IN RESOURCE-LIMITED SETTINGS OF KAZAKHSTAN

Review, Public Health Rev

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### EVALUATION

#### **Q 1** Please summarize the main theme of the review.

Challenges of developing/enhancing palliative care services in resource constrained country i.e. Kazakhstan have been discussed extensively reviewed. It not only covers the challenges but also shares the data and distribution of types of patients/illness requiring palliative care in both children and adults. Highest number is of patients suffering from cancer. It highlights the need for policy making and awareness about the need for palliative services at all levels. It also highlights the need for provision of essential drugs to address main issues like pain relief in patients receiving palliative/end of life care. Appropriate recommendation have been given at the end based on the numbers and observations in the study.

#### **Q 2** Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

very well written paper. We don't have much evidence on this topic from LMIC/resource constrained countries. This paper gives insights into the challenges and issues faced by LMIC. In addition it addresses the need for provision of essential medications such as morphine and need to develop awareness about the efficacy and utility of these medications in providing relief to patients receiving palliative/end of life care.

Data collected is from reliable sources and Ministry of Health hence authentic.

Data about palliative care services at Private Medical centres of Kazakhstan seems to be missing. This information might be helpful and if they have any such high quality facility – public private partnerships can be beneficial.

Focused services/training with area/subject experts for different illnesses should be considered. Palliative care for both children and adults and for different illnesses cannot be generalized. Like there should be training modules for pediatric population and adult patient population. Needs for cancer patients are different from other illnesses and can be more sensitive. Hence there is a need to design different training modules accordingly.

Suggestion of collaborating with international organizations and utilization of online resources will be very useful.

#### **Q 3** Please provide your detailed review report to the authors, structured in major and minor comments.

In addition to points covered in Q2 :

This paper extensively covers all aspects of palliative care at LMIC identifying the gaps and appropriate recommendations to address/ improve situation at LMIC.

In subsequent studies there is a need to identify challenges in the specific groups separately (pediatric and adult patient population and most commonest of issues faced by different patient populations like cancer - develop learning modules accordingly).

PLEASE COMMENT

**Q 4** Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

Yes

**Q 5** Does this manuscript refer only to published data? (unpublished data is not allowed for Reviews)

No.

**Q 6** Does the manuscript cover the issue in an objective and analytical manner

Yes.

**Q 7** Was a review on the issue published in the past 12 months?

No.

**Q 8** Does the review have international or global implications?

Yes especially for low to middle income countries struggling with same healthcare issues- this data and recommendations by the team can be generalized.

**Q 9** Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes

**Q 10** Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

**Q 11** Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

**Q 12** Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

**Q 13** → Quality of generalization and summary



**Q 14** → Significance to the field



**Q 15** → Interest to a general audience



**Q 16** → Quality of the writing



## REVISION LEVEL

**Q 17** → Please take a decision based on your comments:

Accept.