

Peer Review

# Review of: "The Perception of Nurse Case Care Managers about the Needs of Cancer Patients"

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## 1. Clinical and Nursing Relevance

The study addresses an important issue in oncology care: identifying unmet psychosocial, informational, and organizational needs from the perspective of case-care nurses. This contributes valuable evidence to supportive cancer care and multidisciplinary coordination research.

## 2. Appropriate Qualitative Methodology

The use of thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's framework is suitable and clearly described. The adoption of COREQ reporting standards strengthens transparency.

## 3. Clear Identification of Thematic Domains

The manuscript successfully identifies core domains such as:

NCCM training

Care pathway coordination

Therapeutic alliance development

Psychosocial and informational patient needs

These themes are well supported by participant quotations.

## 4. Ethical and Reporting Transparency

Ethical considerations and consent procedures are adequately described, which strengthens credibility.

## Major Concerns

### 1. Sampling Strategy and Transferability

The study used convenience sampling from four Italian health authorities, which may introduce selection bias.

#### *Issues:*

Limited geographic and cultural diversity

Potential overrepresentation of highly motivated professionals

Lack of explanation of recruitment refusal rates

#### *Recommendation:*

The authors should expand discussion regarding:

Transferability of findings to other healthcare systems

Potential professional and institutional bias

Impact of the Italian healthcare context on results

### 2. Data Saturation Justification

Although the authors state that saturation was achieved at interview 15, justification is limited.

#### *Recommendation:*

Clarify:

Criteria used to determine saturation

Whether thematic redundancy or coding stability guided saturation

Provide supporting examples or methodological references

### 3. Depth of Analytical Interpretation

The results are largely descriptive and occasionally lack critical theoretical integration.

*Example:*

The study identifies unmet emotional and informational needs but does not sufficiently connect findings with established theoretical frameworks such as:

Patient-centred care models

Holistic nursing frameworks

Care coordination theory

*Recommendation:*

Strengthen analytical interpretation by linking findings to established oncology nursing models and patient experience frameworks.

## **4. Limited Exploration of Organizational Barriers**

The manuscript acknowledges NCCM difficulty meeting social and organizational needs but does not deeply analyze systemic healthcare barriers.

*Recommendation:*

Expand discussion on:

Workforce limitations

Resource allocation

Policy-level barriers

Interdisciplinary communication challenges

## **Minor Concerns**

### **1. Terminology Consistency**

Several abbreviations are inconsistently used (CCM, NCCM, ICCM). Standardization throughout the manuscript is recommended.

## 2. Language and Style

The manuscript contains minor grammatical issues and occasionally repetitive phrasing. Professional English editing is recommended to improve readability.

## 3. Overstatement of NCCM Impact

The conclusion strongly emphasizes NCCM centrality without acknowledging role overlap with other oncology professionals.

Recommendation:

Adopt a more balanced tone acknowledging multidisciplinary collaboration.

## 4. Results Presentation

Tables summarizing themes are useful, but:

Coding hierarchy could be clarified

Relationship between subthemes and final themes could be visually strengthened

## Additional Suggestions for Improvement

### *Include Reflexivity Statement*

Authors mention research team composition but should clarify:

Researcher positionality

Potential influence on data interpretation

### *Expand Limitations Section*

Add discussion regarding:

Cultural specificity

Qualitative subjectivity

Lack of patient perspective triangulation

## **Declarations**

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.