

APPENDICES/ SUPPLEMENTARY FILES

Appendix 1: Search terms used:

- PubMed database: (((("Frail Elderly"[Mesh]) OR (frail*[tw] AND ("Aged"[Mesh] OR aged[tw] OR aging[tw] OR older adult*[tw] OR older person*[tw] OR elder*[tw] OR senior[tw]))) AND "editorial"[Publication Type])
- EMBASE/MEDLINE databases combined: 'frail elderly'/exp OR 'frail elderly' OR 'frailty' AND ('aged people'/exp OR 'aged people' OR 'aging'/exp OR 'aging' OR 'older adult' OR 'older people' OR 'elder' OR 'senior') AND [editorial]/lim
- CINAHL Plus, CINAHL, MEDLINE, PsycINFO databases combined: (frail elderly [mesh] OR frail*) AND (Aged* OR aging OR older adult* OR elder* OR senior*) in 'Editorial' for Publication Type or Document Type in Academic Journals

Appendix 2: Definitions and summary of figurative language techniques included in this review (Baldick 2015):

Definitions:

- Allegory: a story or description that has a secondary meaning beyond its apparent literal meaning.
- Allusion: a reference to a person, place or thing, fictitious or historical, that is not further explained and relies on the reader's existing knowledge.
- Analogy: a presentation of an idea using a well-known or more relatable concept that has similar qualities.
- Metaphor: an indirect comparison of two seemingly unrelated nouns, verbs, or concepts that suggests a shared feature.
- Simile: an indirect comparison of two seemingly unrelated nouns, verbs, or concepts using the words "like" or "as".

Summary:

Regarding types of figurative language, metaphors were commonly used. Examples included frailty as: "a cage, which traps [vulnerable people] in their bodies" (Chochinov & Stienstra, 2012); and, in terms of conceptual disagreements, a "land...where confusion, contradiction, and ambiguity reign supreme" (Ferrucci et al., 2006). Analogies used to describe frailty compared: caring for frail patients to preparing for combat (Rockwood 2014); and performing surgery on a frail to replacing the motor in a "rickety car running out of gas" (Dobbels et al., 2014). Similes compared frailty to vague or subjective concepts, such as "beauty" (Rockwood & Hubbard, 2004). The two examples of allusion to describe frailty both referred to the Holy Grail, a widely sought but elusive religious artifact (Conroy 2009; Hubbard & Theou, 2012). Finally, both uses of allegory to discuss frailty as a possible consequence of extended lifespan referred to a myth in which a Greek goddess erroneously

wishes for immortality but not eternal youth for her lover (Ferrucci et al, 2006; de Grey, 2008).