Reviewer's report

Title: The Association of Psychiatric Comorbidity and Use of the Emergency Department among Persons with Substance Use Disorders: An Observational Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 28 April 2008

Reviewer: Marta Torrens

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. results. The authors should determine the types of comorbidities presenting

2. The authors should describe the reasons for patients presenting to EDs.

3. . results. Given the large sample size, the authors should undertake further analysis by gender.

4. . results. It would also be relevant to examine the data to determine what types/ combinations of comorbidity use most resources.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. while the authors explain their previous work in the supplementary document and how it differs from the current work, the text would benefit from differentiating these studies in the introduction otherwise it is unclear they are different studies

2. abstract methods. Would benefit from description of how psychiatric disorder was diagnosed, and how determine/ define “comorbid” (summary of what is described in methods section)

3. background first sentence. Think would benefit from an explanation/ contextualisation for the non US reader why EDs are the “defacto public health care…for vulnerable populations”.

4. typo. Page 9 line 4 last word…this should be the

5. table 1 titles. Add (years) to mean age. Add numbers as well as % to tables.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests