Reviewer's report

Title: Difficulties associated with out-patient management of drug abusers by general practitioners. A cross sectional survey of general practitioners with and without methadone patients in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2005
Reviewer: Wendee M Wechsberg

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper covers an important topic and worthy of sharing in the literature if the authors knew the subject better. -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
This paper lack a literature review that would help drive the analysis. The brief background even repeats itself.
The authors did not explain the instrumentation well enough to know how the questions were asked, how many, how long did it take? Was there a review and a consent performed even by mail? The writing was poor with many mispelled words, poor quality tables. There opinions about levels of patients under care was baseless, as was their opinion that 100mg was a low dose. They need to ground their understanding in existing literature.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
This paper needs better structure and editing, including the tables.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests