Reviewer's report

Title: Suicide amongst psychiatric in-patients who abscond from the ward: a national clinical survey

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2009

Reviewer: Maurizio Pompili

Reviewer's report:

The authors provided an original investigation dealing with suicide among psychiatric in-patients. The topic is relevant and of great importance. This is a well-written paper that is based on a national clinical survey. I have however some minor comments, such as: authors should discuss if suicide of in-patients may be considered a sentinel event as frequently reported by the Joint Commission; authors may discuss and report some of the issues included in the review by Pompili et al. Where schizophrenic patients commit suicide; authors may reflect if a logistic regression analysis may be suitable to analyze their important data, although this should not be considered a compulsory revision.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'