Reviewer's report

Title: All-cause Mortality among People with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Substance Use Disorders, and Depressive Disorders in Southeast London: a cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 21 July 2010

Reviewer: Morten Hesse

Reviewer's report:

This work appears sound and well-conducted, and concerns a relevant issue. The limitations are stated clearly, and the findings are reported in easily understandable statistics.

Minor compulsory revisions
I due have one thing that is compulsory, but very minor: The term "secondary care" has sometimes been used to refer to hospital care, at other times to refer to outpatient specialized healthcare. I would need to know the exact meaning of the term in this context.

Discretionary revisions
The authors might consider the wide range of substances that can be abused, and their potential to influence results. For instance, IV opiate use is often associated with acute overdose, alcohol with suicide and death from a number of complications from chronic alcohol exposure, whereas other substances such as cannabis or snorted opiates have not generally been associated with excess mortality. This may particularly have influenced the results pertaining to substance use disorders in ethnic minorities.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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