Reviewer’s report

Title: Benzodiazepine Use and Misuse Among Patients in a Methadone Program

Version: 3 Date: 30 April 2011

Reviewer: Anthony Comerford

Reviewer’s report:

1. There are no Major Compulsory Revisions
2. The one Minor Essential Revision was corrected
3. All other revisions are at the authors discretion

The article rightly emphasizes the issue of methadone patients abusing benzodiazepines because of the significant risk of fatal overdose from the drug combination. The authors go right to the source in questioning methadone program participants confidentially to assess onset, prevalence, use patterns and the demographics of users. The straight forward statistical processes appropriately point to potential profiling for probability and the potential for intervening with co-occurring anxiety and other mental health problems as possibilities for further study. The data appear sound, are reported in a generally acceptable format and appropriate interpretation and detail are provided for in discussion. The authors point to the inability to draw any causal conclusions, the limitation of the population surveyed as well as the inability to accurately assess diagnoses in the study.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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