Reviewer's report

Title: Classification of bipolar disorder in psychiatric hospital. A prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 20 November 2011

Reviewer: Elie Cheniaux

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is well written and complies the criteria for being published. I have only two suggestions. The authors, in discussion, should know that the fact of interviewers (except one) are not psychiatrists is a limitation, even if they were trained for using the M.I.N.I. Plus. This also contributes to create a contrast with the clinicians, probably all psychiatrists, what consequently yields less reliability between diagnoses. Another suggestion is that authors should discuss also that interrater reliability can be low even if both diagnoses are formulated by researchers. The following reference can be quoted: Cheniaux,E., Landeira-Fernandez,J. & Versiani,M. (2009) The Diagnoses of Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar Disorder and Unipolar Depression: Interrater Reliability and Congruence between DSM-IV and ICD-10. Psychopathology, 42, 293-298.

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.