Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of behavioral changes and subjective distress after exposure to coercive inpatient interventions

Version: 1 Date: 29 February 2012

Reviewer: Mary E Johnson

Reviewer's report:

The research question is an important one and adds to the body of knowledge about the use of coercive interventions. To my knowledge, it is the first study comparing the use of different interventions in terms of their impact on the patient. This paper would be of interest to an international audience. Although the data were collected in one country, the use of various interventions varies from country to country and the findings from this study would help clinicians construct a hierarchy for the use of these interventions with patients.

The methods are clearly written and appropriate to the study question. The data are sound. The manuscript adheres to standards for reporting and data deposition. The discussion and conclusions clearly follow from the data. Limitations are accurate and clearly identified. The title conveys the essence of the article.

Minor Essential Revisions: 1. The paper needs some editing, such as typographical errors, ensuring that "data" be followed by a plural verb (e.g. data were instead of data was). 2. Reporting of reliability and validity should be more specific than "high" or "Satisfactory."

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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

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.