Reviewer's report

Title: Healthcare utilization and costs in hospitalized patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder receiving second-generation antipsychotics: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2011

Reviewer: Carolyn Dewa

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors point out that the small sample is one of the limitations of the study. It would be helpful if more information was provided regarding the inclusion criteria. For example, why was attention focused on people who received oral ziprasidone, aripiprazole or quetiapine? Why were people with evidence of epilepsy dropped? What data are not captured through carve outs?

It would helpful if the authors provided a rationale for why they included an analysis of switching.

On page 4, paragraph 1, the authors assert, “It has been hypothesized that the improved tolerability of SGAs in comparison with older agents may result in ... and lower costs of care.” However, there is no comparison made with SGAs and older agents. What is the rationale for the cost figure?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.