Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 7 February 2012

Reviewer: Carolyn Dewa

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have attempted to address most of the comments. However, it would be useful if they could elaborate further on why they chose to the three SGAs. They indicate, “We focused attention on these three SGAs as none of them are currently available as generic products (quetiapine and ziprasidone were included in the CATIE).” Specifically, what are the implications for these facts? How do the results of this study contribute to the existing literature? Isn’t lack of adherence to medication an established problem?

The authors have added a more detailed description of their sample. In addition, for clarity, the authors could add a diagram that shows the number of cases that were dropped for each of their exclusion criteria.

In the Discussion section, the authors talk about adherence. However, they do not spend much time discussing their cost results. Instead, they refer to utilization of services. A bit more of the relationship between these two outcomes would be interesting.

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.