Reviewer's report

Title: Healthcare utilization and costs in patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder receiving aripiprazole, quetiapine, or ziprasidone at hospital discharge: A retrospective cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 29 April 2012

Reviewer: Carolyn Dewa

Reviewer's report:

It is now clearer why these three SGAs were chosen. Also, the authors have highlighted that this study's contribution to the knowledge base about adherence is mainly in the area of post-discharge.

The diagram the authors have added to address the exclusion criteria is adequate.

Major Compulsory

Half of the Discussion section focuses on adherence. The other half focuses on the limitations of the data. In their response to the reviewer comments, the authors were convincing in their argument that their data are not sufficient to comment on the relationship between costs and adherence (i.e., the sample size is too small and the study duration too short to say anything meaningful). This point might also be included in the limitations.

The Discussion section still seems to be somewhat disconnected from the paper title and the results. Indeed, there are results about adherence and the authors devote the Discussion to this topic. However, they offer no comments about their utilization and cost results. Given the paper title suggests that they focus on utilization and costs, what is the main point that the authors wish to make about these? On the other hand, if the main point is not about utilization and costs, perhaps the title should reflect the main point brought out in the Discussion section.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.