Reviewer's report

Title: Diagnosing comorbidity in psychiatric hospital: challenging the validity of administrative registers

Version: 2 Date: 17 May 2012

Reviewer: David Ndetei

Reviewer's report:

This study addresses very important areas – are diagnoses made by clinicians valid and do they address co-morbidity?; what is the better approach – top-bottom or bottle up? The literature review is adequate. The authors went into great details on the methodology which is good. The results are well presented.

However, there are some issues with the discussion. While they start off well with the first paragraph of the discussion, most of the second paragraph is not about discussing the results but more of literature review. The last part of that paragraph is more on justification of the study rather than discussing on the results. The paper could be improved by paying direct attention to how their finding compare and contrast with other research findings.

In the third paragraph they go back to literature review on the merits of bottom-up and top-bottom approach to diagnosis rather than discussing their findings.

It is only in the 4th paragraph that they get down to discussing their findings. They make good effort in discussing the limitation of their study.

Finally they need to look at their paper with a view to editorial issue and one or 2 typos.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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