Author's response to reviews

Title: Typology of persons with severe mental disorders

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dr. Deesha Majithia  
Executive Editor  
BioMed Central

Subject: Article modifications MS: 9422827678185867 – Typology of persons with severe mental disorders

Dear Dr. Majithia:

Thank you for considering our paper for publication in your journal. All the modifications suggested by the editors and the two reviewers have been properly addressed. We have included two tables describing the type of professionals consulted, and the frequency of visits with these professionals in the previous 12 months for each cluster.

We hope that these changes will meet with your approval and we remain entirely at your disposal should you require further information.

Thanks again and best regards,

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EDITORS REQUEST:

1. Please document within the methods section of your manuscript the specific name of the organization that granted ethical approval to your study going ahead.

Answer: The names of the three organizations that have approved our study protocol have been included in the manuscript (page 6).

2. Questionnaire: please include a copy of your questionnaire as an Additional File, properly cited in the Methods section.

Answer: We have included a copy of the Montreal Assessment of Needs Questionnaire (MANQ) in Annex 1, including the “answer cart” that patients can point at to identify their answers on the analogical scales.

COMMENTS FOR THE AUTHOR:

Reviewer #1: This is an interesting study that establishes typology of persons with severe mental disorders.

Answer: Your comment is much appreciated!

The authors need to elaborate on a few issues. Minor Essential Revisions

1. The Montreal Assessment of Needs Questionnaire should be described in further detail. Has the instrument been used in other studies?

Answer: We have used the MANQ in three other studies. We have included the three references, in page 6.

Is it validated?

Answer: The validation of the MANQ is the subject of another publication currently under submission. We discuss the main results on page 6.

How is 'needs seriousness' defined?

Answer: “Needs seriousness” is in fact equivalent to “severity of need”. We have made the correction throughout the manuscript. Severity of needs is measured with the MANQ using analog scales, ranging from 0 to 10 (0= no need; 10= the most serious need).

2. The authors should provide more details on the cluster analysis. It is not clear how they decided on 5 clusters.

Answer: The methodology used for cluster analysis is now described in more detail (pages 9-10).

3. The authors should discuss the applicability of their results on service provision in the Discussion Section.

Answer: In conclusion, we have added more information on the applicability of ours results for service provision planning.
4. Certain sections of the manuscript need to be reworded/ rephrased. E.g. Page 8, para 3 - "There was the lowest AUDIT score."; page 6 para 1- "The MANQ has four additional domains, for a total of 26."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published.
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests

Answer: We conducted a complete review of the manuscript and made language corrections where necessary. Thank you again for your positive suggestions and comments!

Reviewer's 2 report:
It would be necessary answer to next questions:

1. What criteria have the authors used to select the sample study? Was patient data extracted from a census or registry of people with severe mental disorder? If so, have the researchers used an operative criteria or definition to identify “cases” of severe mental disorder?

Answer: The selection criteria are described in further detail under section “Study design and sample selection criteria.”

2. Although the study outlines socio-demographic, socioeconomic, and clinical variables to describe the different characteristics of persons with severe mental disorders, data is lacking on the use of services. Do you have any data as pertains to the frequency of use of community services and hospital admissions during the year previous to the study?

Answer: New complementary analyses of service use have been added. In Tables 4 and 5, we describe the type of professionals visited by participants and the frequency of visits with these professionals in the previous 12 months for each cluster. These results are also described and discussed under both “Results” and “Discussion.”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
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’s below

Thanks again to both reviewers and the editor for their pertinent comments!