Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding treatment non-adherence in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder: a survey of what service users do and why

Version: 3 Date: 3 October 2012

Reviewer: Kelly Buck

Reviewer's report:

Although there are interesting survey results that could be of clinical interest, the ms is quite flawed. It neglects to provide a review of literature on medication adherence as well as recovery from mental illness which must be examined and cited to support the research, as well as the many claims made by the authors. To reference the recovery literature, the authors should include work by Andresen, Buck, Davidson, Lysaker, Roe and Silverstein, to name a few. Additionally, I conducted a brief review of the literature on medication adherence and found several related papers including Lysaker et al (2011), Ciudad et al (2011), Kane (2011), Staring et al(2011), Krivoy et al (2011), Tranulis et al (2011), Kelin et al (2011), Barkhot et al (2012, which is a review of interventions to improve adherence) and Goff et al, (2012 and 2011). There are many more which could be quite relevant. Besides the literature review, I would suggest organizing the reporting of findings in a way that was more salient or important instead of reporting every finding individually. Group the findings in a more broad manner, then talk about how they fit or don't fit with the literature. As written, the case studies are inappropriate because the participants CAN be identified. Either they should be changed somewhat to protect identity (and this must be stated) or their comments should be described with only a few quotes (which is what the participants consented to). Finally, the authors should be clear about what treatment means, whether it is medication or talk therapy. This was particularly confusing throughout the ms.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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'