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: 13 October 2012

Reviewer: Acebo Garcia Guerrero

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This is an interesting paper which gives a description of why the sample follows, or not, the treatment and the main reasons of the non-adherence of the sample. It is written with clarity but lack of statistic analysis; therefore the conclusions lack of statistical power and support, and in addition, any possible generalizations. I have several comments that should be addressed:

Abstract: (Discretionary Revisions)
1- Please add the size of the sample in the summary.

Method:
2(Minor Essential Revisions)- If possible, it would be interesting to add some data about an adherence measure. Inclusion of adherence measures, as the Morisky Medication Adherence Scale, would allow a comparison of the present results with a validate measure. If it is not possible to include data about an adherence scale, it should be included as a limitation.

3 (Major Compulsory Revisions)- specify how many patients had a bipolar disorder and how many had schizophrenia.

Results: (Major Compulsory Revisions)
4- A table with a summary of the main percentages, at least the items that are classified in positive or negative responses, this would give visual support to the data. The table could describe the percentage and the number of patients giving each response (yes or no).

5- Some statistical analyses might be done: it could compare the followers and non-followers of the recommendations, and analyze with a chi-square, if these two groups differ on the other items as satisfaction, with their medication, satisfaction with the way the follow recommendations, etc... It would also be interesting to compare the groups resulting when dividing the sample in satisfaction with their medication, expectations and outcome, etc.

6- The size of the sample represented by each percentage should be written along with the percentage; it would be helpful to write both the number of people of the percentage and the total sample that it is referring to.

7- When the main themes, reasons, sub-themes or experiences are mentioned, the percentage or number of people of the sample should be addressed. This data should be included at least in the following paragraphs:
• Paragraph 2 “Are service users satisfied with their medication?”: specify the number or percentage of the main themes.
• Paragraph 4 “Why do service users follow recommendations?”: specify the number or percentage of the main reason.
• Paragraph 5 “Why don’t service users follow recommendations?”: specify the number or percentage of the main reasons.
• Paragraph 6: specify the number or percentage of the main reasons.
• Paragraph 8 “Unintentionally doing something different to recommendations”: specify the number or percentage of the main sub-themes.
• Paragraph 9: specify the number or percentage of the main themes.
• Paragraph 11: specify the number or percentage of the main theme.
• Paragraph 25 “When people did discuss their treatment adherence behaviours with their doctor”: specify number or percentage of the main experiences.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests