Reviewer's report

Title: Prospective study of factors influencing conditional discharge from a forensic hospital: the DUNDRUM-3 programme completion and DUNDRUM-4 recovery structured professional judgement instruments and risk.

Version: 1 Date: 31 October 2012

Reviewer: Philip Sugarman

Reviewer's report:

The question being address is not well defined - is it to predict discharge, or to report on the properties of these tools.

The methods are appropriate and well described, and the data is sound. Standards for reporting and data deposition are good. The statistical techniques are used appropriately.

The discussion and conclusions are little light on what the study is telling us about the predictability and predictors of discharge, and about clinician and tribunal behaviour. The relevant literature could be more widely cited in what is a significant study.

The limitations of the work are clearly stated, but could be more creatively addressed by focussing on what is surprising or otherwise about the predictors.

The future of the study for re-conviction should also be described a little more.

Acknowledgements appear to sufficient.

The title is OK, the abstract should be reviewed when the paper has been revised.

The standard of writing is good, if dry.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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