Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of atypical long-acting injectable versus oral antipsychotics on rehospitalization rates and emergency room visits among relapsed schizophrenia patients: A retrospective database analysis

Version: 2 Date: 24 February 2013

Reviewer: Gunnar Morken

Reviewer’s report:

I think the data are important and should be published. I believe the methods are ok.

Major compulsory revisions:

But I think the authors should highlight in the results that there was no difference between the two groups in number of days as inpatients and also mention this in the discussion. This should also be included in the abstract. The number of days as inpatients is usually a more important factor than number of rehospitalisations in costs of healthcare.

Minor essential revisions

Discussion:

The two groups might differ with more difficult to treat patients in the LAT group: Even if the authors have tried to match the oral AT patients with the LAT group, the patients receiving LAT might be more difficult to treat than the oral AT group. The reason for choosing LAT instead of oral AT might for some patients be problems with non-adherence to medication in combination with very disturbing symptoms.

Even if the differences between the groups for several items are significant, the differences are mostly between 80 and 95% and no difference in days as inpatients. If this is a clinical important difference when choosing medication for a patient should be discussed.

The lack of difference in number of days as inpatients which usually is the most important factor in health care costs should also be mentioned in the discussion.

In my copy of Table 2, the markers of the confidence intervals are not correct.

The authors state that an approval from an ethics committee is not needed, I am not sure if that is correct and ask the editor to look into the question.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests