**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** A retrospective study of antipsychotic drug switching in a pediatric population.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 July 2013

**Reviewer:** Nancy Covell

**Reviewer's report:**

This report offers new information regarding switching antipsychotic medications in pediatric populations.

**Discretionary Revisions**

1) Throughout, when describing the results, it would be helpful to also include some summary statistics for individual-level variables. In addition to aiding with interpretation of the current findings, prescribers may find the individual-level summaries helpful as they consider prescribing decisions with children and their families. For example, the paper notes that “there were 4818 weeks of antipsychotic prescription which were given to a total of 137 patients”. It would be helpful to also know the minimum, maximum, median, and mean trial length for individual children.

2) Similarly, when discussing “Antipsychotic polypharmacy (i.e., concurrent administration of two or more antipsychotic drugs) was noted in 451 weeks”, it would be helpful to understand the number of children with polypharmacy along with summary statistics describing the trial lengths of the polypharmacy.

3) As another example, understanding trail lengths for risperidone, quetiapine and olanzapine would help the reader interpret statements like “Risperidone was the most commonly prescribed antipsychotic drug prior to hospital admission (2680 weeks, 55.6%) followed by quetiapine (1339 weeks, 27.8%), and olanzapine (444 weeks, 9.2%)”. Risperidone might be prescribed for significantly more weeks due to more children, longer trial lengths or a combination of both.

4) Finally, in Figure 1, it appears that the type of switch after hospitalization was predominantly titrated (6 of the 9 switches after hospitalization). While this may or may not differ from pre-hospitalization switches, it may be worth discussing some possible reasons for this apparent difference.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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