Reviewer’s report

Title: Working alliance and its relationship to outcomes in an randomised controlled trial (RCT) of antipsychotic medication

Version: 4 Date: 10 October 2012

Reviewer: Louanne Davis

Reviewer’s report:

This report is of a well-designed and executed study investigating an issue of clinical importance: the impact of prescribing depot vs non-depot atypical anti-psychotics on working alliance. The writing is clear and concise and logically develops the research question with appropriate reference to existing literature.

The following are some suggestions for minor revisions:

1) on pg 1, paragraph 3, the wording of the sentence beginning "This overview of compliance..." could be revised to be a more clear conclusion drawn from the the content of the previous two sentence.

2) on pg. 7, please provide a citation for the sentence in the first paragraph of the discussion: "Working alliance develops over time....." , particularly the statement "... and as such any changes will ony be detected over periods of longer than one year" or revise the laguage to "...may only be detected." In the psychotherapy research literature alliance can shift dramatically in one weekly session.

3) on pg. 7 in the second paragraph of the discussion, can the authors hypothesize regarding how it is that there is no relationship between social functioning and alliance.

4) were study subjects rating the alliance with their prescriber or did this vary to also include a primary clinician (e.g. therapist, case manager)?

5) additional limitations that should be mentioned: the sample is predominantly male and caucasian.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 declare that I have no competing interests.