Reviewer’s report

Title: First Episode of Psychosis and Migration in Italy (PEP_ITA Migration): a study in the Italian Mental Health Services

Version: 5 Date: 6 September 2013

Reviewer: Gerard A Hutchinson

Reviewer’s report:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Background- 1. Some more detail on the patterns of migration to Bologna in particular would be useful to contextualise this study- where are they coming from; how recently has this increased migration been acknowledged and reasons for migration in the various groups.

2. The mental health services in Italy are described as having a 'peculiar organization' p6- what does this mean for the study?

3. What methods will be used for the migrant group to ensure that they are first episode and have not sought help in their countries of origin.

4. is it a case control study and if so this should be made clearer with regard to the recruitment of control cases?

5. p8 1st paragraph is confusing, also using the authors’ statistics, i get 280 migrant patients, does their figure of 250 mean that they expect a 10% refusal rate?

6. how important will translation issues be for the migrants and indeed for the tests/questionnaires themselves and how will these difficulties be managed in the study?

7. in the abstract conclusion, the statement about psychosis causation is misleading, a better word might be understanding.

8. there are grammatical errors that need to be corrected

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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