Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment for illegal drug use disorders: the role of comorbid mood and anxiety disorders.

Version: 4 Date: 20 January 2014

Reviewer: Patrick McCabe

Reviewer’s report:

1) I recommend that the following...

“For the purpose of our descriptive analyses participants were split into three groups: 1) those who received treatment for an illegal drug use disorder (n=750); 2) those who did not receive treatment for an illegal drug use disorder and perceived an unmet need for treatment (n=127); 3) those who did not receive treatment for an illegal drug use disorder and did not perceive an unmet need for treatment (n=637).”

…be changed to reflect that four analytic groups for the two primary analyses were created as reflected in Table 1.

2) Table 1 is inconsistent with the treatment of categorical groups as some (age, ethnicity) have one p-value and psychiatric profile does not. Please report statistical test used here.

3) Table 2 should report a total N somewhere.

4) The section heading “Treatment for illegal drug use disorders” should probably read something like “Psychiatric profile classification” to be consistent with Table 1.

All of the above are Compulsory Revisions.

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.