Reviewer’s report

Title: Statistical Validation of the Criteria for Symptom Remission in Schizophrenia: Preliminary Findings.

Version: 3 Date: 23 March 2007

Reviewer: Robert Lasser

Reviewer’s report:

General

This article stands as an important addition to the growing discussion of remission and recovery in schizophrenia, and the scientific community's attempt to bring more objectivity to assessing patient outcomes.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

To make this article more helpful to the reader and community at large, I would like to see some discussion of other scales that may have proceeded through this process (shortening of a larger scale to provide a quicker, reliable clinical assessment). One example which arises is the use of the SF-10 in place of the SF-36 to assess health status. Another may be the ISCDD's work on the Hamilton Depression Rating scale (Amir Kalali, MD at Quintiles) may be helpful here. By doing so, the authors can help place their work as part of the expected scientific process in supporting the Remission Criteria in schizophrenia as an acceptable proxy for larger scales clinical research and potentially practice as well.

Can the authors provide some context of other well-known scales and their point and longitudinal sensitivity, so the reader may easily place these results?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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 declare that I have no competing interests.