Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment patterns and clinical characteristics prior to initiating depot typical antipsychotics for nonadherent schizophrenia patients

Version: 1 Date: 30 March 2009

Reviewer: John H Kalbfleisch

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Major Compulsory Revisions

(1) The authors should consider not mentioning statistical analysis procedures in the Methods Section when the results of these procedures are not given in the Results Section; such as the K-M Log-rank test applied to “time to first psychiatric hospitalization.”

Minor Essential revisions

(2) Did any cases have a history of depot-decisions? If so, readers would be interested to know if “depot” during the study period is observed more often in cases with a history of this treatment variation.

(3) Propensity-Score bootstrapping methods do not mention the variables used for adjusting (some readers will want to know the covariate-type adjusting variates). I would consider revealing this information if it can be accomplished in a fashion readers will comprehend.

(4) There is no mention in the Results Section of time-point group comparisons (via sensitivity analysis – as indicated in the last few lines of the Methods Section).

Discretionary Revisions

(5) The authors could consider enumerating the number of cases contributed from each of the 6 study sites. A reader might question if a large proportion of the depot cases come from only one site.

(6) Abstract, Methods Section, line 1; delete “3-year”. The max follow-up for a case was 3 years, but the study case enrollment and data collection spanned 6 years.

(7)
In the tables “P-Value” could be replaced by “Comparison P-Value.” (using 2 lines for this expanded column title)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'