Author's response to reviews

Title: Number of addictive substances used related to increased risk for unnatural death. A Combined Medico-Legal and Case-Record Study.

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Point-by-point revision of manuscript Number of substances used.. MS: 1001001044241076

Reply to Graham Jones
The references have been corrected, 34 & 35 excluded from the reference list and number 36 moved to after previous 43. Thus 37-43 are 34-40, 36 is 41, and 44 and 45 is 43.

Reply to Glen Baker:
I have some concern about the clarity of the terms…. We have changed the title to “Number of addictive substances used…” to clarify that we are studying addictive substances only. On p 12 last § the limitation of studying only addictive substances is mentioned.

However, all substances detected at autopsy were included. This is now mentioned on p 8 first §.

P6 last § (revised version) other tranquillizers have been excluded as we actually did not include other tranquillizers for the same reason as we did not include antidepressants a s o, that is only benzodiazepines were addictive. The word addictive has been added in front of analgesics. In this § the number of drugs that could be scored has been changed to include alcohol.

P9 P<0.26 has been changed to p=0.26
P10 violent death has been changed to 0.51
P15 Reconsidered has been changed to reconsidered.

Legend fig 4 added due to small numbers has been clarified. There was only one person with 5 substances making up 100%, which did not make sense.
P2 the word overall has been added after unnatural death.
Finally, some minor corrections:
we have excluded “apart from alcohol” in the figures, as alcohol only is included in the figures (point 1).
On p 8 2nd § ethical approval has been corrected to the National Board of Forensic Medicine
On p 10 3rd § 6th line suicide has been added in front of death for clarification.
The manuscript has been formatted to suit BMC Psychiatry, key words and running head removed, background instead of aims in the abstract and this passage has been somewhat extended. Introduction is now Background. Material and methods is now only Method.
The contribution of the authors has been adapted to the standard of the BMC Psychiatry. Legends have been moved before the tables. The texts above the figures that duplicates the legends have been excluded.