Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Predictors of Metabolic Monitoring among Schizophrenia Patients Initiated on Atypical Antipsychotics in the Veterans Health Administration

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 March 2009

**Reviewer:** Scot Purdon

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is a clearly written manuscript that addresses an interesting topic. I have no major concerns with the analysis or presentation.

Discretionary revisions.

1. On page 14. Grammatical correction to, "The monitored patients were as more than twice as likely to be overweight or obese and were significantly more likely to be hospitalized in the prior year."

2. Table 2. "Mean length of hospital for all admissions during the pre-existing year" should indicate the quantity of interest (e.g. days?).

3. The divergence from CATIE results is potentially very important. It would be useful if the authors could expand on this somewhat, with the variables reported herein, or with speculation about other variables that might be of interest.

4. Also, in CATIE all patients were monitored at baseline, whereas it would appear here that monitoring was partly contingent on weight (and insurance); wouldn't exclusion of low BMI from monitoring result in higher detection rates of metabolic syndrome among the examined cases? Hence, the much lower rates compared to CATIE are even more striking.

5. The authors have noted the limitation of variable time between monitoring and initiation of treatment, suggesting narrower windows might be better. Could this not be supported further by including the number of days as an independent variable?

5. The delay between initiation and

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
The manuscript is not product-specific, and I think it unlikely to have direct relevance to a particular commercial interest.

It was funded by Eli Lilly, however, and I have received funds from Eli Lilly in support of my research and speaking engagements.