Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol use and spousal mental distress in a population sample: The Nord-Trondelag Health Study

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2013

Reviewer: Pallab Maulik

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed most of the earlier issues that were raised by the reviewers, and have made additional comments to explain what they have done, more clearly. This has definitely improved the clarity of the paper.

There are two minor issues which should be addressed by the authors.

I. The authors should mention in the limitations, that their measure of 'mental health distress' is not validated.

2. Given the cross-sectional nature of the study, the authors clearly mention in the first sentence, last paragraph of page 24, that they could not evaluate causality, but in the very next sentence hint at having measured the same. This is confusing and needs to be clarified. This is also important as the authors also agree that they have not attempted to do a mediation analysis, but merely discuss causal pathways.

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:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'