Reviewer's report

Title: Mortality after discharge from long-term psychiatric care in Scotland, 1977 - 94: a retrospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Greg E Simon

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

The authors use an appropriate data source and appropriate methods to make the point that natural causes account for the majority of excess mortality among people with chronic psychiatric illness. I have no significant concerns about the methods or presentation. I have only one suggestion regarding additional data. It would be interesting to see the data on excess mortality (expressed in both absolute and relative terms) according to major diagnostic groupings (schizophrenia vs. affective disorders vs. substance use disorders vs. other diagnoses).

Competing interests:

None declared.