Reviewer's report

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

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Version: 1 Date: 8 Aug 2003

Reviewer: Graham Dunn

Level of interest: An exceptional paper that breaks new ground and has implications well beyond its field

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

1. I have no serious criticisms of this manuscript but there is a need to clarify one methodological point.

Compulsory revision
The authors need to provide one or two sentences stating exactly how they calculated the expected number of deaths in column 2 of Table 2. I assume that allowance has been made for sex, age and perhaps period of discharge, but these details should be made explicit.

Competing interests:

None declared.