Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of health services in people with multiple sclerosis with and without depressive symptoms: a two-year prospective study

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Michael Hutchinson

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In this paper the authors compared the use of health services in 71 people with MS + depressive symptoms, with 102 MS patients without depressive symptoms over a period of 30 months in 2002!!! (11 years ago).

One difficulty of course is that all the patients were attending a neurological hospital and therefore the sample does not necessarily accurately reflect MS in the community, However given the nature of the comparison is between the two hospital attending groups, the conclusions from the study are valid.

The authors’ main conclusion is that MS patients with mild EDSS disability and depression used the health care system more frequently than those without depression. Those MS patients with more severe disability in general did not differ in that regard.

This is a nice study, which is very well written with a particularly good discussion. The authors acknowledge the study limitations (sample size in more severely disabled groups).

NO REVISION REQUIRED

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'