Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with involuntary admissions among non-psychotic patients with substance use disorders and comorbidity: a cross-sectional study

Authors:

Anne Opsal (anne.opsal@sshf.no)
Øistein Kristensen (Oistein.Kristensen@sshf.no)
Tor K Larsen (tkmaclarsen@me.com)
Gro Syversen (syversen.gro@gmail.com)
Elise BA Rudshaug (eliseaasen@hotmail.com)
Arne Gerdner (Arne.Gerdner@hhj.hj.se)
Thomas Clausen (thomas.clausen@medisin.uio.no)

Version: 5 Date: 23 January 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear, Ms Flory Mae Calumpita
on behalf of Dr Roberto Forero,

Manuscript MS: 1959391252775934 - Factors associated with involuntary admissions among non-psychotic patients with substance use disorders and comorbidity: a cross-sectional study

We appreciate the comments from the Associate Editor and have revised the paper according to your suggestions.

We hope the revised paper is now acceptable. Please do contact me again if additional issues need to be addressed.

Detailed responses are provided below.

Yours Sincerely,

Anne Opsal
(on behalf of the authors)

Sørlandet Hospital, Addiction Unit
Kristiansand, Norway
We have replaced the text according to Associate Editor’s comments:

On page 2, Results:

Patients who had been involuntarily admitted were more likely to be females, had utilized public welfare services more often, presented more severe substance use patterns, and had a history of more frequent visits to physicians for somatic complaints in the last 6 months they also had fewer comorbid mental disorders.

On page 3, Conclusions

More attention is required for involuntarily admitted patients in order to meet the needs associated with complex and mixed disorders. In addition, treatment centers should offer diagnostic options and therapy regarding substance use, psychiatric and somatic disorders.

On page 4, Background

Involuntary admission is an option only for persons who are found by a medical professional or psychologist.

On page 6, Methods, Study subjects

This cross-sectional study compared two groups: involuntarily and voluntarily admitted patients to substance use disorder and psychiatry wards.

On page 10-11, Mental health diagnoses and substance use disorders

Women, receiving public welfare benefits, and more frequent visits to physicians for somatic complaints, or injection of drugs during 6 months prior to treatment were associated with involuntarily admission pursuant to the Social Services Act (Table 4).

On page 12,

The gender distribution in Norway was not found to differ substantially from what has been found in Sweden [16, 26]. Psychiatric hospitals in Norway are characterized by the typical gender distribution, with more women than men among inpatients; however, men are more often involuntarily admitted [8, 27].

“However, men are more often involuntarily admitted.”
Editor’s comments: this is contrary to yours findings, why?

The explanation is that overall more men than women are involuntarily admitted, i.e. that the absolute number of men are higher. But looking exclusively on women relatively more women are involuntarily admitted than voluntarily admitted.