Reviewer’s report

Title: Smoking and its treatment in addiction services: Clients’ and staff behaviour and attitudes

Version: 2 Date: 24 February 2014

Reviewer: Peter Hajek

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well conducted survey documenting an unmet need to tackle smoking in users and staff of addiction services. The paper is presented very well, the study is informative and the results are important.

I only have a few suggestions which are largely cosmetic.

The Abstract and text mentions ‘Europe’s largest provider of services’, consider providing their name (unless a sense of mystery is intended #).

The results provide Ns for responders but not for the sample approached (this can be calculated from the response rate but should be stated).

The figures suggest the proportion of staff to patients to be about 1:2 across the facilities. It may help with assessing the representativeness of the survey if this was compared with the actual staffing levels.

Provide the date or at least the year in which the survey was carried out.

The discussion of the high prevalence of occasional smoking among staff should consider a possibility that for some staff at least, this may have been seen as a more socially desirable answer. In connection with this, it may be of interest to check if staff smoking status (non-smoker, daily smoker or occasional smokers) was related to their attitudes to treatment.

Some members of staff had ‘tobacco’ as their only area of interest which suggests that the survey may have included the local stop-smoking service. If this was the case, the service should be excluded as all clients would be smokers by definition, possibly biasing the survey.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I received research funding from and provided consultancy to manufacturers of
smoking cessation medications.