Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of increased treatment rates for alcohol dependence in the United Kingdom in 2004

Version: Date: 8 November 2013

Reviewer: Michael R. Polen

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“Minor issues not for publication”

1) “Background/Alcohol dependence in the UK,” paragraph one, delete “and older” from “…men 15 to 64 years of age and older …”

2) in the same section, paragraph two, change “1 out of 10” to “1 out of 12”

Discretionary revisions:

1) Please consider changing the title to reflect more clearly the hypothetical nature of the study’s results. For example, “The potential impact . . . .“

2) The value of the article to researchers and policy makers would be increased if the authors could comment on the feasibility of increasing each of the treatment modalities to up to 40% of those in need. How realistic is it to suggest that treatment participation could be increased from about 8% to 20% or 40%?

Motivation among people with alcohol dependence is mentioned, but what about incentives to health care providers?

3) There is a wide difference in outcomes between the two estimates of the efficacy of Brief Intervention in hospital settings. Please consider commenting on why the estimate based on relative risk of mortality differs so much from the estimate based on reduction in alcohol consumption.

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.