Reviewer's report

**Title:** Patterns of primary care and mortality among patients with schizophrenia or diabetes: a cluster analysis approach to the retrospective study of healthcare utilization

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 10 June 2009

**Reviewer:** Christine Paul

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript represents an interesting use of existing data sets to identify a potential approach to tackling high levels of morbidity associated with schizophrenia. The manuscript is clear and well written. Description of the analysis & interpretation of the data is generally clear and thorough.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The 2nd sentence of the abstract is too long and confusing.
2. The range of limitations which arise from using the VA databases need to be addressed more thoroughly in the discussion and noted in the abstract.
3. There is some repetition to remove from the method and results, particularly regarding the cluster analysis.
4. Better labelling or more detailed explanation in the text would help the reader understand the Figures.
5. If possible include some explanation of the major causes of death.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests