Reviewer’s report

Title: Shelter-based intermediate care for homeless adults in Amsterdam: characteristics and dynamics in the user profile between 2001-2008

Version: 2 Date: 9 June 2009

Reviewer: Lillian Gelberg

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The goal of this study is to describe the patients (n-629) who use a shelter-based recuperative care facility in Amsterdam.

Overall Comments
1. The authors are experienced homeless health care providers
2. This manuscript describes the population and health status of homeless patients treated in a recuperative care program in Amsterdam
3. The data are important, but the introduction needs to have policy driven aims – what is the importance of obtaining the results? What policy related gap is being filled by the aims of the paper?
4. pg 12 – describe the housed comparison group for the mortality analyses – were they low-income housed?
5. the term trimorbidity is great – since many in addition to their dual diagnoses of mental health and substance use, nearly always have a physical health problem.
6. I like the comparisons in the discussion section, to recup care studies from other countries. Shows stability of findings that the average LOS is about 6 -7 weeks.

Limitations
7. Some data are limited to that provided in medical records – please discuss. Medical record data only include data provided in medical records.