Reviewer’s report

Title: Hypnotic Use in A Population-Based Sample of Over Thirty-Five Thousand Interviewed Canadians

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2006

Reviewer: Nicholas Moore

Reviewer’s report:

General

A nice paper, showing that essentially benzodiazepines are extensively misused.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

please rewrite abstract, adding results such as % use, strength of associations etc. As it is the abstract is essentially useless.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Should emphasize that BZD have been shown possibly useful for the short-term management of non-fatal diseases, whereas they have been associated with a high risk of fatal events (accidents, falls, cognition failure...) especially with long-term use in the elderly, which seems to be the predominant pattern of use. Use in patients without obvious indications also indicate extensive misuse.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

please carefully reread, there are a few typos and omissions (eg, p9 may be due TO prescriber characteristics.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.