Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical classification in mental health at the cross-roads: which direction next?

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2012

Reviewer: Paul Lysaker

Reviewer's report:

This ms poses a potentially controversial but quite thoughtful and systematic set of arguments in favor of diagnostic reform. While I don't agree with all the points made i support the publication of this piece pending resolution of one simple concern. I urge the authors to please completely delete reference to the systems in question as "us based." For example the phrase the "US-derived Diagnostic and Statistical Manual" is meaningless since there is not a non-us based dsm. Further the geographic home of these documents and their supporting research is not relevant to their validity. If the manual had been developed in Norway or China it would not be more or less useful. Better to just use the manuals in question by name. That concern aside, a question i would raise is why the authors do not note the need for elements related to social adversity to be key foci of study for emerging model of mental illness. Perhaps it is buried in the ms but at least my reading missed it.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflicts of interest