Reviewer’s report

Title: Using routine clinical and administrative data to produce a dataset of attendances at Accident and Emergency Departments following self-harm

Version: 3
Date: 9 April 2015

Reviewer: Dan Siskind

Reviewer’s report:

This interesting article examined the use of routine administrative data on self harm presentations to ED, comparing an electronic dataset to a hand audit. The broader aim of this research is to identify cost-effective high quality monitoring systems for self harm presentations, and to determine the utility of electronic data for future research into and monitoring of self harm presentations. Access to high quality retrospectively administratively collected databases could be of great benefit to research into self harm and mental illness, with flow on benefits to the patients served by mental health teams.

This manuscript contained a large number of acronyms which were confusing to a non-UK reader. The author’s inclusion of a list of abbreviations is appreciated.

Major Compulsory Revisions
I have no major revision requests.

Minor Essential Revisions
Page 6 line 27, Was the sample of 200 references for inter-rater reliability randomly selected?
Table 2 could include totals by age bracket.
Table 2 heading should include “Individuals presenting with self harm at all four...” if this is what this table reports.
Table 4 – include the statistical significance in the footnote of this table.

Discretionary Revisions
I have no discretionary revision requests

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