Reviewer’s report

Title: How to measure the need for transition to adult services among young people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): a comparison of surveillance versus case note review methods

Version: 0 Date: 21 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Philip Hazell

Reviewer's report:

The paper describes two approaches to identifying cases of young people who are transitioning their ongoing care for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder from child focused to adult focused mental health services. One approach employed surveillance methodology more typically applied to the detection of rare but important medical conditions, while the other approach utilised case record review. Both approaches are labour intensive and presumably expensive. In the present study each method yielded low numbers. The authors concluded that the methods each had their strengths and weaknesses, and recommended that they should therefore be used in combination.

Specific comments

1. While technically accurate, reporting in the abstract that case record review yielded four times as many cases as surveillance is misleading. Most readers would assume case record review must be four times as efficient, but this is incorrect as the denominator is unknown. Given case record review had a limited catchment while the surveillance was nationwide, case record review was in all probability far more efficient than surveillance.

2. Like the respondents, I too found surveillance case definition criterion 1 ambiguous. It is a shame the problem was not detected in the pilot phase of the project.

3. On p10 it states there were 300 CAPSS case notifications. This figure does not reconcile with the data reported in Table 3.

4. The word 'data' is consistently treated as singular. It is plural.

5. Bottom p 13 last sentence there is a redundant 'other'

6. My interpretation of the data is that neither approach was very successful. I do not think the recommendation that the two should be used in combination is justified. The next step
would be to refine the methodology to improve yield, or to develop a different method altogether. If a stimulant register exists in the UK as it does in other jurisdictions, this could be a way in. Those registered as continuing to receive stimulant medication and falling within the age band typically associated with transition could be contacted.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal