Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of Initiation of Second Generation Antipsychotics for Bipolar Disorder: A Month-by-Month Analysis of Provider Behavior, 2004-2010

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2014

Reviewer: Juan A Gallego

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  None

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. In the methods section, clinical course variables, I found intriguing how the authors chose 10% to classify somebody as bipolar I. Even if sensitivity analysis showed that 30% was no different from 10% I still consider that a low cutoff. I would have liked to see a cutoff of at least 50%, that way one could at least say that most times than not (>50%) patients were classified as bipolar I.

  2. I would have liked to see more data (demographics, education, academic interests) from the “practitioners at risk” and their role in the outcome measures. Perhaps, the type of practitioner could have been entered as a variable in the regression model (psychiatrists vs. advanced nurse practitioners vs. general practitioners, etc).

- Discretionary Revisions
  1. In the “Other factors related to SGA initiation” (Discussion section), the phrase “future studies including race-by-time interactions may be warranted” is not clear. It would be better to say that future studies should consider including race by time interaction terms in their statistical analysis.

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.