Reviewer's report

Title: Violent and non-violent methods of attempted and completed suicide: the role of early risk factors

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2015

Reviewer: William Coryell

Reviewer's report:

This submission uses the familiar cohort of Swedish military conscripts to assess risk factors for violent suicide attempts and, in turn, for completed suicide. The methods are sound and the findings have broad interest. I have only a few suggestions.

The analyses used dichotomies for outcome prediction and the thresholds on which they were based are not intuitive in many cases. The addition of a table that describes the proportion of the overall sample for each dichotomy would be useful, i.e., what proportion had low “emotional control”.

The fact that this was an exclusively male cohort needs more emphasis. It should be clear in the title and in the abstract's conclusion.

At the bottom of page 6, was death with “undermined intent” lumped with suicide death?

The text should note whether evidence exists concerning the accuracy of death certificate cause of death designations in Sweden over this time period.

The beginning of the Results section should include the proportion that died by suicide with no history of attempt.

Apparent suicide attempts preceding conscription were not ascertained. This should be listed as a limitation.

The legend for Figure 2 is unclear as to whether this is time to suicide or time to death by any cause.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests