Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychosocial stressors contributing to emergency psychiatric service utilization in a sample of ethno-culturally diverse clients with psychosis in Toronto.

Version: 0 Date: 31 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Merritt Dean Schreiber

Reviewer’s report:

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This is an interesting idea to test however the methodology used does not support answering the important questions being considered.

1) retrospective chart review design and suffers from the issues associated with inferring causality from a retrospective process including relative risk estimation

2) Uses DSM IV multiaxial system which is no longer in use for at least 4 years, so comparison to the new system for classifying stressors is precluded.

3) Dependent not a standardized measure of life event stressors but rather degree to which clinicians documented Axis IV:

   a) no evidence that the clinicians demonstrated adequate inter-rater reliability on this dimension, there any differences found could be differences in the clinicians accuracy and/or tendency to evaluate Axis IV.

   b) this is not an independent measure of patient stress exposures, this is a measure of clinician ratings/perceptions since no evidence that it relates to standardized and validated methods of patient life event stress is presented

   c) this serious confound is not addressed by the authors

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

No

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

No

**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

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