Author’s response to reviews

Title: Health care use, drug treatment and comorbidity in patients with schizophrenia or non-affective psychosis in Sweden: A cross-sectional study.

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BPSY-D-17-00295R2: Health care use, drug treatment and comorbidity in patients with schizophrenia or non-affective psychosis in Sweden: A cross-sectional study.

Response to Reviewer 1, Nobutaka Ayani, M.D., Ph.D:

Comment #1
The English of this manuscript is still not suitable for publication. I strongly recommend you to use a professional English editing service.

Response: The English language editors we have used are one native American English speaking scientist with a strong international publication record and one professional English language editor, who reviewed the manuscript in British English. We do not think further professional editing with yet another editor is required in order to improve the readability of the manuscript.

However, we would like to know which parts of the manuscript reviewer 1 is referring to in Comment #1, should further editing be necessary.

Comment #2
You should describe what is NAP and the reason why you focus on the comparison between schizophrenia and NAP more clearly.

In addition, the explanation of NAP is in the last paragraph of "Background" in your submission, and I recommend you to describe the explanation in the first or second paragraph.
Response: The paper addresses the fact that most publications use either a strict schizophrenia diagnosis (ICD 10, F20) for selecting a study population, or an overlapping “psychosis” population (ICD 10, F20-F29), in which strict schizophrenia (F20) constitutes a subgroup. Our purpose of comparing the schizophrenia patient group (F20) with the “other non-affective psychosis” patient group (F21-F29) is to partly to provide information on the two psychosis groups and partly to facilitate comparison between the two, when such a comparison is possible and relevant.

The definition of the schizophrenia patient group (F20) and the commonly used psychosis population (F20-F29) has now been moved to page 4, top of paragraph 3 in the Background section. The definition of our NAP population is unique and the Background section concerns data on either schizophrenia patients or psychosis patients. Therefore, and in order not to confuse the reader, the definition of NAP is first described in the Abstract and then again in the “Aims of study”.

Comment #3

IF the aims of this study is comparison of the similarities and differences between schizophrenia patients and NAP patients in order to investigate the reason why schizophrenic patients have shorter life span and high prevalence of somatic comorbidities, you should describe the aims in the paragraph of "Aim of the study".

Response: We are not per se investigating the actual reason for the shorter life span or the higher prevalence of somatic comorbidities in the schizophrenic patient group, but observing the similarities and differences between the two diagnostic groups. Further work with these populations include a longitudinal aspect, where we hope to be able to observe, among other things, a potential diagnosis progression and health consequences for the two patient groups. However, in this paper we provide data that may aide comparison between these two groups in some pertinent areas.

Comment #4

I can find the abbreviation "VAL" in page 6 line 125, and you spell out of the abbreviation in page 14 line 313. You should spell out in page 6.

Response: VAL is not an actual abbreviation. The definition of VAL is now stated on page 6. For additional clarity, a more thorough description of VAL is available on page 16 under the section “List of abbreviations”.