Reviewer’s report

Title: Substance use and self-harm: a cross-sectional study of the prevalence, correlates and patterns of medical service utilisation among patients admitted to a South African hospital

Version: 1 Date: 14 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Arvin Bhana

Reviewer's report:

I find the changes made acceptable in relation to the specific highlighted sections. However, I am dismayed that these principles did not transfer to the Discussion section. A study that did not find any significant associations or relationships between variables cannot assert that the trends are in the appropriate direction. I have made a number of comments in this section.

Please also check that I have not misunderstood the statistical analysis you did. Chi-square test (measure of association) and logistic regression (relationships/ odds ratio) were used. In which case, reference to differences in the Discussion section makes no sense!

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.

Yes

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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