

BMJ - Decision on  
Manuscript ID  
BMJ.2017.040635.R  
1

**Body:**

10-Nov-2017

Dear Dr. Brat:

Manuscript ID BMJ.2017.040635.R1 entitled "Post-Surgical Prescriptions for Opioid-Naïve Patients and the Association with Overdose and Abuse" which you submitted to BMJ,

Thank you for sending us your paper. We are pleased to say that we would like to publish it in the BMJ as long you are willing and able to revise your paper as explained below in the report from our statistical advisor. We are provisionally offering acceptance but will make the final decision when we see the revised version. The report and general requirements for submission are available at the end of this letter.

We are looking forward to reading the revised manuscript and, we hope, making a final acceptance decision.

Please note that the BMJ might choose to shorten content or replace or re-size images for the print issue.

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Yours sincerely

dr. Wim Weber  
European editor, The BMJ  
wweber@bmj.com,

#### REFEREE COMMENTS

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation:

Comments:

The paper appears to have been revised to take account of many of the original issues raised.

The definition of opioid misuse has been clarified and the terminology used has been amended appropriately. The statistical analyses are appropriate, and extensive sensitivity analyses have been carried out. The description of the results has also been suitably amended.

There is just one statistical point that requires clarification:

The authors state, "Further sensitivity analysis attempted to mimic an unobserved confounder by creating a synthetic binary variable that was associated with both duration and opioid misuse".

It is not clear exactly how this variable was constructed. More details would be useful.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Julie Morris

Job Title: Head of Medical Statistics

Institution: UHSM

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: No

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

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