Additional articles from secondary references: n=13

Articles excluded: n=24
*patients were originally recruited as part of a randomised controlled trial (n=11); a pre-post test study on the effect of postgraduate training on process of care and patient outcomes (n=1); retrospective analyses of administrative or clinical data were used (n=6); retrospective life charts were used to gain longitudinal data (n=1); pharmacy records were used to identify a cohort of primary care patients initiating antidepressant treatment (n=1); participants selected were 'psychiatric cases' and results not presented for depression (n=2); participants were diagnosed with depression by GPs and were being prescribed antidepressants (n=1) & review articles (n=1)

Articles included in the systematic review: n=27

Abstracts of articles reviewed: n=432

Articles considered potentially relevant and reviewed: n=51

Number of observational longitudinal studies of depression in general practice: n=17

Multi country studies: n=2
Studies conducted in US: n=8
Studies conducted in Europe: n=5
Studies conducted in Australia: n=1
Studies conducted in New Zealand: n=1

Articles considered potentially relevant and reviewed: n=51

Articles included in the systematic review: n=27