Patients with an untreated, non-psychotic unipolar major depressive episode for whom the treating physician has judged that starting treatment with sertraline is indicated

If tolerant of sertraline 25 mg/d for 3-16 days, written informed consent is sought and obtained

Registered at the data centre through EDC and then cluster-randomized by site to:

- Intention to titrate up to 50 mg/d
- Intention to titrate up to 100 mg/d

Based on assessment of depression severity at week 3, remitters will continue with the treatment. Non-remitters will be randomised individually to:

If remitted

- Continue with sertraline 50 mg/d
- Continue with sertraline
- Augment sertraline with mirtazapine
- Switch to mirtazapine

If unremitted

- Continue with sertraline 100 mg/d
- Continue with sertraline 100 mg/d
- Augment sertraline with mirtazapine
- Switch to mirtazapine

Assessment of depression severity and side effect at week 9

Assessment of treatment continuation, depression severity and side effect at week 25