Reviewer's report

Title: Depression and the nature of Trinidadian family practice: a cross-sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 17 December 2006

Reviewer: Irwin Nazareth

Reviewer's report:

General
Although this paper has improved, it is still no suitable for publication

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Definition of depression
The main issues here is whether the Psychiatrists used a standardised assessment for the DSM IV diagnosis such as CIDI or was this based entirely on their clinical judgement. This is an essential fact that is missing from a paper that reports on validation

Association versus predictors
Basic epidemiological principles suggest that the authors identified associations with depressions rather than predictors. Predictors can only be determined in a longitudinal study. Cross sectional study findings are limited to associations. In the case of predictors the sequence of events can be followed but with associations one cannot tell whether a variable is the cause rather than an effect. This study has described associations with depressions and must accordingly write the text to represent this.

Logistic regression analyses
Although the attempt at logistic regression analyses is commendable, the description of the statistical approach and the presentation of the results are inadequate. There is still no section in the text of the paper that provides a hypothesis driven approach employed by the researchers in their analyses plan. Moreover, these should be quantitatively presented in table 2 with one column devoted to univariate results and the second devoted to the adjusted results. The data on p values is not necessary when 95% CI are provided. Lastly, the Odd Ratios for each of the variables are meaningless unless the reader is provided details on how the variables have been dichotomized (if this indeed is the case) or whether the continuity of the variable has been maintained.

Discussion
This section is still difficult to read and would benefit from re-organisation, a more logical framework supported by suitable sub headings.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests