Reviewer's report

Title: How do men and women with depression articulate their distress and engage with health professionals? A qualitative interview study

Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2007

Reviewer: Christopher T Kilmartin

Reviewer's report:

General

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

This is a vastly improved manuscript but it continues to have a major problem with the way that the word "gender" is being used. at times, it is used as a synonym for sex (the biological categorization) and at other times to describe socially constructed relationships and ideologies. For example, on page 2 under Results it says that "key gender differences noted were that men..." These are sex differences and should be labeled as such. On page 5, it says that some studies comment, in passing, on gender differences, but again, I think you're talking about sex differences - it is not clear

On p.8 at the top, you say "we take a gender comparative approach." No, you did not. You merely separate the responses of men and women and compared them. this is a sex comparative approach. Although this approach can shed some light on gender, gender itself, as a set of ideologies, personality characteristics, behavioral tendencies, etc. was not investigated as a variable and the study should not mislead by saying that it did.

The authors need to more clearly lay out the sex/gender distinction near the beginning of the paper and explain how the terms are being used, then use the correct term. Using gender as a synonym for sex uncritically conflates a biological variable with a psychological one.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.