Reviewer's report

Title: Descriptive epidemiology of stigma against depression in a general population sample in Alberta

Version: 3 Date: 20 December 2009

Reviewer: Yan Leykin

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Multivariate models suggested that not being able to recognize that the vignette describes a depression, rather than some other ailment, is one of the most (if not the most) significant predictor of stigma. The authors may consider exploring this finding in detail and discussing its significance.

For instance, reporting the proportion of people who failed to recognize depression will help readers to interpret the rest of the findings. Similarly, how did the answers to the stigma questions of those who failed to recognize depression compared to those who did recognize depression?

It seems that the description “stigma against depression” is inappropriate for those who failed to recognize it.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Please correct minor punctuation errors. For instance, in the second sentence of the abstract there needs to be a comma after “Unfortunately”.

2. It is unclear how the conclusion “This indicated that, among women, participants who could recognize the case vignette and those who are not immigrants were less likely to have high stigma scores.” (p.15) was reached, since in both genders case recognition and immigration status was associated with lower stigma.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests