Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevention of anxiety disorders in primary care: A feasibility study

Version: 2 Date: 31 July 2012

Reviewer: Charles Reynolds

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1. Major compulsory revision: in the Discussion, please comment on questions for further research, in particular, whether endorsement by primary care physicians to their patients of the importance of participating in mental illness prevention studies could help to reverse the effects of stigma and/or otherwise result in improved rates of enrollment. I am worried about the unintended negative "halo" effects of the study, namely, that investigators may choose to give up trying to recruit in primary care settings. Another related issue is the need for more research in how to "market" mental illness prevention studies in general medicine settings. For example, would it help to talk with patients not only about the importance of preventing mental illness, but about protecting them from the downstream consequences of mental illness for heart health and brain health?

Minor essential revision: suggest citing an example of screening for common medical (as distinct from mental health) problems. If as I suspect the rates of acceptance of screening are higher (and perhaps even too high), what can we learn from the success or acceptability of such strategies that might inform screening for risk for common mental illnesses.

Cite Vikram Patel's report of the MANAS trial in The Lancet, which exemplified successful screening by lay health counselors and research assistants in primary care clinics in Goa.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I received reimbursement for travel expenses for speaking at a conference in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in September, 2011. The subject of the conference was prevention of depression and other common mental disorders. The conference was sponsored in part by the sponsor of the research reported here.

I have also published with Professor Pim Cuijpers, a colleague of the authors of this paper.
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