Author's response to reviews

Title: Relationship between Depressive Symptom Severity and Emergency Department Use Among Low-Income, Depressed Homebound Older Adults Aged 50 Years and Older

Authors:

Namkee G Choi (nchoi@austin.utexas.edu)
C. Nathan Marti (nate78701@gmail.com)
Martha L Bruce (mbruce@med.cornell.edu)
Mark E Kunik (mkunik@bcm.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Marco Menchetti
Editor
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Dear Dr. Menchetti and Reviewer 3:

We have now responded to the Reviewer 3’s question regarding the cutoff score of 15 or higher on the 24-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAMD) as follows:

For consistency with other RCTs of depressed older adults in primary care or home healthcare settings in the United States [36-38], those whose HAMD scores were 15 or higher (i.e., moderately severe to severe depressive symptoms) were included in the RCT. The mean 24-item HAMD score for home healthcare patients with major depression at baseline was about 15 [36]. In the multisite, randomized trial known as PROSPECT (Prevention of Suicide in Primary Care Elderly: Collaborative Trial), the lower bound of the 90% confidence interval of the 24-item HAMD for patients with major depression was also about 15 [37,38].

The highlighted sections include our clarification in the Methods section of the manuscript. The cited references are (as shown in the reference list):


Thank you, and we look forward to your decision on the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Namkee Choi, Ph.D. (corresponding author)
Professor
School of Social Work
University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station, D3500
Austin, TX 78712-0358
nchoi@austin.utexas.edu; phone: 512-232-9590; fax: 512-471-9600