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

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Author's response to reviews: see over
December 15, 2012
Marco Menchetti
Editor
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Dear Dr. Menchetti:

Thank you again for your thorough review of our manuscript. As you recommended, we have made the following changes in the manuscript:

1. We have removed the phrase in the parenthesis on page 4: (i.e., moderately severe to severe depressive symptoms); and
2. We have included the following in the first paragraph of page 14:

   Second, we chose the 24-item HAMD cutoff score of 15 that was not validated. As described previously, in choosing the cutoff score, we used an empirical approach based on research data from (1) a study of home healthcare patients with major depression that found the mean baseline 24-item HAMD score to be about 15 [36]; and (2) the PROSPECT study in which the lower bound of the 90% confidence interval of the 24-item HAMD for patients with major depression was also about 15 [37,38].

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

Sincerely,

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