Author's response to reviews

Title: Web-based guided self-help for employees with depressive symptoms (Happy@Work): design of a randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: BMC Psychiatry

Date: 23 February 2012

Dear Editor,

This cover letter accompanies a manuscript submitted to the journal ‘BMC Psychiatry’. The manuscript is entitled ‘Web-based guided self-help for employees with depressive symptoms (Happy@Work): design of a randomized controlled trial ’. The study protocol was approved by the ethics committee of the VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, the Netherlands. These ethical standards are in accordance with the APA ethical standards. All of the authors have contributed significantly to the manuscript.

The manuscript contains the study protocol on the effect of a web-based intervention course called Happy@Work. The intervention course specifically focus on employees with depressive symptoms. Psychosocial problems, especially depressive symptoms, are very common among the working population. This leads to excessive cost for society and companies. Not only can this course, if proven effective, be implemented in occupational healthcare, but also in mental healthcare and general healthcare. The goal of this course is to prevent depression. Early treatment of mild depressive symptoms may prevent the worsening of depressive symptoms into a depression. This goal matches the scopes of BMC Psychiatry and may be of interest for healthcare professionals and healthcare researchers.

I have made the following changes after your email from February 23:
- An email is sent to editorial@biomedcentral.com with evidence of ethical approval (approval is in Dutch).
- I declare that this research is not external funded.
- This manuscript has not been offered for publication elsewhere.
- This clinical trial has been registered by a trial register that meets all the criteria from the ICMJE guidelines (wwwtrialregister.nl).
- I have not made any changes to the manuscript.
Yours sincerely,

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