Reviewer’s report

Title: Over-diagnosed and over-treated? A survey of Australian public attitudes towards the acceptability of drug treatment for depression and ADHD.

Version: 1 Date: 24 January 2014

Reviewer: Jack Stevens

Reviewer’s report:

The authors should be commended on their clear writing, their large sample size, and their focus on a clinically meaningful topic.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. On Page 7, please elaborate on the CATI—does the computer ask the questions through an interactive voice response system, or does a human interviewer ask the questions while following a computer guided program?

2. In the discussion, please add a paragraph or two on public attitudes towards antidepressants and stimulants in countries across the world other than Australia. Similarly, please discuss how these Australian finding are consistent/inconsistent with findings from other parts of the world.

3. In the discussion, please highlight that future work should study under-treatment and underdiagnosis as well for these two conditions. It’s possible that some patients may be over-diagnosed/over-treated while different patients with clinically significant impairment have not received a diagnosis and/or treatment.

4. In the discussion, please highlight that future work should ask the public and/or health care professionals what should be done to avoid overdiagnosis (e.g., requiring both parent and teacher data to make an ADHD diagnosis, restricting the diagnosis to major types of impairment, like very low grades or needing to repeat years of school) and overtreatment (e.g., trying a course of cognitive behavioral therapy for depression before prescribing antidepressants, given that this treatment is sometimes as beneficial as antidepressants).

No minor essential revisions

No discretionary revisions

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.