Reviewer’s report

Title: Measurement invariance of the depressive symptoms scale during adolescence

Version: 1 Date: 8 May 2013

Reviewer: Jennifer Rose

Reviewer’s report:

This revision is much clearer in its explanation of the statistical methods, which makes it more evident that this research makes a strong contribution to the measurement literature with clear implications for researchers.

One of the major weaknesses to the scale is that three factor solution allows for only 2 items per factor, which is fewer than recommended, and could cause a problem with under identification should this factor structure be included in more complex structural equation models. However, the authors note this limitation in the Discussion, and encourage future research testing the addition of complementary items. In addition, the authors discuss the potential negative impact of combining the three subscales to create a single composite score.

Minor essential revisions:

I would like to see the authors comment on extreme change in RMSEA for Time 2 for the test of factor mean invariance. Constraints typically worsen the fit of a model, which is apparent from the chi-square and CFI, but the RMSEA, and to some extent, the SRMR suggests a radical improvement in fit. This warrants some discussion.

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 declare that I have no competing interests.