Reviewer's report

Title: Web-based tools can be used reliably to detect patients with major depressive disorder and subsyndromal depressive symptoms

Version: 3 Date: 25 October 2006

Reviewer: Gerhard Andersson

Reviewer's report:

General
Thank you for the opportunity to read this interesting ms dealing with an important topic of relevance for future health care.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Abstract should be condensed and important aspects of the findings are missing such as the dropout rate. Test retest dropout rate was high and should be discussed as limitation in the discussion section. Validity sample self-selected and base rate not stated clearly in results section (eg from the selected sample who completed the retest and the validity study. This is a serious flaw as the reader needs to know the actual rates of depression at all measurement points.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests