Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability and validity of the Thai version of the PHQ-9

Version: 1 Date: 21 October 2007

Reviewer: Yvonne Forsell

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper presents a carefully designed study concerning the validity and reliability of the Thai version of the PHQ-9. It is clearly written and easy to understand. However it needs some editing of the English since there are several grammatical errors as well as spelling errors.

The number of depressed is surprisingly low (1.9%) but as the author states this could have been due to a selection bias. This would mean that people who were depressed had chosen to go to the psychiatrists instead of to the GPs. However it could also mean that the PHQ-9 does not capture depression due to underreporting of symptoms.

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

The statement that PHQ-9 was the optimal measure to establish a categorical diagnosis of depression is not supported. The authors might mean when comparing to PHQ-9 used as a continuous measure.

A ROC curve is presented and the area under the curve is 0.89. The authors state that this means that the PHQ-9 is a good test to identify patients with depressive disorder. This is not entirely true, a better way to analyse the performance of PHQ-9 would be to use QROC curves.

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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)

Introduction

In the introduction it is stated that people are reluctant to seek help from a psychiatrist since it implies that they have psychiatric disorders. It is natural that you suspect that you have a psychiatric disorder if you go to a psychiatrist. What the authors intends to say is probably that people are reluctant to seek help due to prejudices against psychiatric disorders. This has been reported in studies from several countries. Thus GPs are important all over the world not only in Thailand.

Method

In the method section it is stated on page 7 that the Thai version of MINI had a high Kappa, sensitivity and positive predictive value. The numbers in the
parenthesis is confusing, which is the Kappa value? Which diagnostic procedure was the golden standard?

Result
Table 3: Less than major depression could be rephrased to moderate depression, which is a more commonly used term.

Discussion
The term fiscal usually refers to yearly finance and maybe it would be better to use the word financial.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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