Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of the consumption of antidepressants in the immigrant and native populations in a Spanish health region: an observational study.

Version: 1 Date: 6 April 2010

Reviewer: Katherine M Keyes

Reviewer's report:

The present manuscript is an interesting, well-written descriptive analysis of antidepressant prescription drug use among immigrants and non-immigrants in Spain. I have a few minor comments about organization and clarity:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. While the authors acknowledge that prescription drug use is not a complete proxy for treatment, they could go further. They dismiss claims that immigrants may have a different prevalence of depression compared to non-immigrants too flippantly. Plenty of data from the U.S. and other countries suggest that there are very substantial differences in the prevalence of depression across racial/ethnic subgroups, which may be the primary driver of the results shown here. I think the authors should include differences in prevalence as an alternative explanation and discuss this issue in a more nuanced way.

2. The tables are excessive. Authors should limit the tables to those that are immediately relevant to the aims. For example, Table 1, 2, and 5 could easily be reported in the methods/results. Tables 6 and 7 are interesting, but there is no introductory material in the paper setting up why there would be differences for specific types of antidepressant medication, thus the tables come a little bit as a surprise.

3. The discuss material could be edited substantially. Many points are redundant, and the material wanders without substantial focus. A more focused discussion with a few key points would be more readable for a public health audience.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Provide a reference for CatSalut on page 7

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.