Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Co-morbidity and health care utilisation five years prior to diagnosis for depression A register-based study in a Swedish population

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor,

We hereby resubmit our paper "Comorbidity and health care utilisation five years prior to diagnosis for depression – A registerbased study in a Swedish population".

Below follows a point – by- point response to the concerns raised by the reviewers. We hope that our response will satisfy the valuable comments from the reviewers.

We have colored changes made in the revised manuscript. We hope that the manuscript conforms to the journal style including the figures 1-3 in the manuscript.

Reviewer: Upali W. Jayasinghe

The association between age and the likelihood of depression (Table 2) is discussed and commented on page 11 and we have specified the age groups which were compared (age below 60 and age above 80) on pages 2,3,9 and 10.

Reviewer: L Hakkaart-van Roijen

1. We did not match on age, gender and socioeconomic status since we also want to estimate the associations between these factors and likelihood of a depression diagnosis. Therefore, we have modified the aim to correspond with the analyses (page 4).

2. The value of the findings in our study concerning early signs of depression, the Swedish health care structure and recent changes in health policy is discussed and commented on page 14.
With the changes above we hope that our paper can be considered for publication in your journal. Of course we are prepared to make further changes if needed.

Sincerely

David Andersson John Carstensen, Henrik Magnusson, Lars Borgquist