Reviewer's report

**Title:** Duration and adherence to antidepressant treatment in immigrant and native-born populations in Spain: a four year follow-up descriptive study.

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 28 February 2012

**Reviewer:** Sara Garfield

**Reviewer's report:**

Major essential revisions:

1) Please clarify the pharmacy system in Spain. Are dispensing records of all pharmacies in a region kept centrally so that it is possible to identify all dispensings for a patient that have been carried out in that region?

2) It appears that prescribing records were not checked and that it was assumed that the daily dose prescribed would be that defined by the Who Collaborating Centre for Drugs Statistics Methodology. This assumes that prescribing follows the Who recommendations. This should be acknowledged as a limitation and the authors should not refer to '80% of prescribed medication' on the top of page 9.

3) Another limitation is that the study would not identify patients who had never had their first prescription dispensed. This should be acknowledged.

4) Why was an adherence analysis carried out in which patients who acquired 100% of their medication were excluded (page 8)?

Minor essential revisions:

1) In the sentence 'patients who had not completed treatment by the end of the follow-up were considered as censored', please explain what is meant by 'considered as censored.'

2) In the second sentence of the discussion, please clarify the time period being referred to for the risk of abandoning treatment.

Discretionary revisions:

Table 2 is difficult to follow as it stands.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.