Reviewer’s report

Title: Uptake of health services for common mental disorders by first-generation non-Western migrants in the Netherlands

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2009

Reviewer: Rolf Kleber

Reviewer’s report:

In general

Nice manuscript. Fine and relevant research. Writing style is fine.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The discussion section is too open. Deal with the results and the possible explanations more in depth. It is, for instance, too simple to state that the data provide no explanations (page 14) – why should the reader than bother to read this article.

2. The reader get the impression that it finally depends on one’s own interpretation (page 13). The message of the article is, therefore, somewhat blurred. See also the conclusion in the abstract. That is too open.

3. Improve the discussion! In this form the discussion section is rather shallow. It is not yet a proper treatise of the various aspects and interpretations of the findings. Pages 13, 14 and 15 need more attention.

4. For instance, why can the findings not be explained by differences in social economic status (page 130)? And: why end the article with the statement that the influence of socioeconomic position can not be ruled out? Pay more attention to this theme and to dilemma’s.

5. Implications of this research for clinical work and policy making are not provided.

Minor Essential Revisions and Discretionary Revisions

1. The theoretical fundamentals of this research are not well enough explained in the background section. For instance, explain better and why an equal access is so necessary.

2. Make a better distinction in the background section between the issue of equal access and the issue of non-response. Both are indeed highly relevant, but the description is somewhat blurred.

3. The three questions of the background section (page 6) do not return in the discussion section.
4. I would not mention the fact that the study was conducted in Amsterdam as a strength in itself.

5. Pay more attention to the differences between Turkish and Moroccan migrants.

6. The title is too broad. I would add the term Mediterranean instead of Non-Western. “Uptake of health services for common mental disorders by first-generation Mediterranean migrants in the Netherlands”.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.