Reviewer's report

Title: More age-care staff report helping care recipients following a brief depression awareness raising intervention

Version: 1 Date: 20 January 2013

Reviewer: Nigel Wellman

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The tables contain numeric errors and I think that it is essential that all numeric data in the paper is reviewed and corrected. For example: A footer to Table 1 states that not all participants answered all questions. Even with this caveat, many of the numbers seem wrong. For instance the table states that there were n=19 nurses and 94.1% of these nurses (n=16) were female, but 16/19 is 84.2% not 94.1% and the table is riddled with similar errors. I also think that many of the percentages given in Table 3 are incorrect and that the authors need to check all of the numbers given in the paper, correct where necessary and provide clear explanations where numbers diverge because of missing data.

2) This reviewer is UK based and in the UK one would expect a very high percentage of residents in nursing homes and residential care settings or otherwise receiving elder care to have varying levels of cognitive impairment due to dementia and this certainly complicates the recognition of depression. The study ran across a range of care-settings and for an international audience I think it would be helpful to have some brief description of the clinical populations managed by these services and perhaps some discussion of the issues and difficulties faced in detecting and responding to depression in older adults.

Discretionary Revisions
1) Although not the main focus of this paper, this reviewer (a mental health nurse academic by background) was both troubled and perplexed by the poor performance of the nurses, particularly the mental health nurses in detecting and managing depression in their patients and some extra discussion of this issue would be welcome.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.