Reviewer's report

Title: The care of patients with subthreshold depression in primary care: Is it all that bad? A qualitative study on the views of general practitioners and patients

Version: 2 Date: 5 September 2007

Reviewer: Anthony Jorm

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper has been improved by the revisions.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The writing style needs some specific improvements:
1. On p. 2, the sentence beginning "However, first steps..." is too long. Consider breaking it into two.
2. On p. 2, the Results sub-section would be better with past tense, e.g. "Most of the GPs found.. were mentioned..".
3. On p. 2, I am not sure that "hypotheses" is the appropriate term here. I would suggest "raises the possibility".
4. On p. 3, the first sentence is not grammatical.
5. On p. 3, "self-remittent" should be "self-remitting".
6. At the top of p. 4, I cannot follow the first sentence.
7. On p. 7, there is a grammatical problem with "allows to qualitatively, i.e. content analyze what the two groups..".
8. There are a number of missing apostrophes, e.g. p. 11 should be "GPs' familiarity".
9. On p. 18, the sentence beginning "Moreover, since most GPs..." is not well structured. It may be clearer with the comma before "does" removed.
10. On p. 19, I am unclear what "activation" means in this context.
11. On p. 19, mention is made of "the international approach". It needs to be made clear what the approach is to.

12. On p. 20, "...of these patients and patients as well..." is difficult to read. It might be better with a comma after the first "patients".

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'