Reviewer’s report

Title: Stepped care treatment for depression and anxiety in primary care: A randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 6 May 2011

Reviewer: Gerhard Andersson

Reviewer’s report:

Thanks for letting me review this interesting study. I noted no major problems. In my review I will follow the recommended questions.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? YES
3. Are the data sound and well controlled? YES even if can be hard to control treatment dose.
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? In my opinion yes.
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? YES
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Could be clearer in title
7. Is the writing acceptable? Yes.

Since this is a revised paper I also checked if the authors had followed the recommendations. I my opinion they have. One minor limitation that could be raised in the discussion is that the problem solving therapy might be too weak as part of a stepped care procedure and that a more intensive/advanced therapy may be needed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have collaborated with the last author but not in this work.