Author's response to reviews

Title: Moderate mental illness as a predictor of chronic disease prevention and screening

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Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and for the opportunity to respond. I and my co-authors have addressed the reviewers’ suggestions as follows:

1. At reviewer #1’s request, we have updated our reference list to reflect more recent contextual evidence within the mental illness and primary care literature. We have chosen to retain a few older, high quality primary care papers that have been heavily cited in our field.

2. We have ensured consistent mental illness terminology in the manuscript. We use the term “moderate mental illness (MMI)” throughout, with the exception of the use of the terms “anxiety” and “depression” in our operational definition of MMI and description of the GAD and PHQ scales. We have also modified the language used in our definition of MMI slightly to improve clarity. We have decided to use MMI terminology, rather than adopt “anxiety and depression” terminology as suggested by reviewer #2, in order to maintain consistent language with the original BETTER protocol and publication.

3. Alcohol / tobacco comorbidity references for Line 141 have been included. They are the same references as those for Line 227, however should also have been cited at Line 141; thank you to reviewer #2 for flagging this oversight.

4. We have replaced the term ‘maneuvers’ with ‘actions’ to describe the CDPS activities for the purpose of consistent terminology across our publications.

We hereby submit our revisions for your consideration and look forward to your response.