Reviewer’s report

Title: A qualitative study on older primary care patients' perspectives on depression and its treatments - Potential barriers to and opportunities for managing depression

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Sarah Alderson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this qualitative study on older persons views of depression and its management. Overall the paper is well written and informs an interesting discussion about barriers to seeking care for depression in this age group.

I have a few comments to be addressed:

1) In the background, line 76, the authors refer to depression as dimensional depression. I am unfamiliar with this term and wondered if they meant diagnosed depression?

2) There were only a small number of older adults interviewed for this study (12). I was wondering why such a small number were involved and whether this was intentional or due to recruitment problems. There is no mention of saturation of data in the collection and I am concerned that this has not occurred. The authors do not mention where the participants were recruited from (e.g. primary care settings or other). I understand that this study forms part of a larger study and this may be mentioned in other papers, however should also be mentioned in this paper, if only briefly.

3) The participants were selected based on age and sex however this does not translate into the results and no mention is made whether different gender or age was related to different beliefs and experiences.

4) There are a few more limitations that should be added to this section of the discussion. These include the small numbers of participants, recruited from another ongoing study which may influence beliefs and experiences with depression. For example, by taking part in a depression study this may make the study population better informed and experience less stigma around depression. JW was one of the researchers who interviewed the participants but was not involved in data analysis which raises questions about interpretation of the data and subsequent findings.

8) I am unsure what figure 1 is meant to be - the interview schedule or coding frame. This needs a title and to be referenced in the text.
Overall I think the paper is of interest to primary care and those involved in depression management and is well written.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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