Reviewer's report

Title: The validity of the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 to screen for depression in patients with type-2 diabetes mellitus in non-communicable diseases clinics in Malawi

Version: 0 Date: 28 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Tesfa Dejenie Habtewold

Reviewer's report:

I have read the manuscript with great interest. This is a very relevant study given that only few psychometric tools are validated in Africa and it is worthwhile to publish it. Before publication, I would like to recommend you to add some description of the importance of validation study either in the introduction or discussion section.

In addition, what is the difference between table 2 and 3? why you choose to validate PHQ 9? Why not BDI or CIDI or others? I am also not convinced by your choice of cut-off point >= 9; please elaborate.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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