Reviewer’s report

Title: A Comparison of Depression Prevalence Estimates in Meta-Analyses based on Screening Tools and Rating Scales versus Diagnostic Interviews: A Meta-research Review

Version: 1 Date: 04 Jan 2019

Reviewer: James Paulson

Reviewer’s report:

In this revised manuscript and the accompanying author responses, a number of minor issues identified in review are addressed, and I appreciate this attention to detail. Major concerns remain, however, regarding the appearance of an a priori foregone conclusion regarding the relative merits of structured diagnostic interviews versus rating scales as case ascertainment methods. I see great value in the comparisons that are made between these methods, and the data do indeed appear to support this comparison. However, the dominant theme of the paper, reflected still in the revised title, is one of a judgment of quality, appropriateness, and validity that is not directly assessed by the data presented.

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.

No

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

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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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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I am the first author of the manuscript, Paulson JF, Bazemore SD. Prenatal and postpartum depression in fathers and its association with maternal depression: a meta-analysis. JAMA 2010;303:1961-1969 included by the authors in this study

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