Reviewer's report

Title: Adding smartphone-based cognitive-behaviour therapy to pharmacotherapy for major depression (FLATT project): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 2  Date: 26 April 2015

Reviewer: Nickolai Titov

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this interesting protocol.

This study addresses an important problem and uses a novel smartphone approach to administer CBT. The protocol is mostly, clearly written and well structured.

I have few comments to make, but I encourage the authors to consider the following two issues, which I hope will result in a stronger trial.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. First, what are the hypotheses or expected results? I regret I was not able to see any noted in the manuscript.

2. Second, I am curious about the adequacy of the sample size in light of several factors. These include that the referenced benchmarks do not compare active treatment conditions, and thus may over-estimate the expected gains in the present trial, which compares active treatments. In addition, the sample for the present trial are potentially treatment resistant, and gains in this sample may be minimal. It would be helpful if the authors addressed these issues.

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 declare that I have no competing interests.