Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between subthreshold depression and self-care behaviour in people with type 2 diabetes: a protocol for systematic review of observational studies

Version: 0 Date: 18 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Fiona Kinnear

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

It was a pleasure to read such a comprehensively written and well designed protocol for a systematic review of the association between subthreshold depression and self-care behaviour. The rationale for carrying out this review was made clear and it is clear this review is addressing an important research question. I have only minor comments which I feel need addressing before publication - which I have outlined below.

I wish you the best of luck with publication and with carrying out the systematic review.

1. Only including studied published in English. As a systematic review it should be aiming to include all relevant studies, and this inclusion criteria may exclude potentially valuable data. What are the reasons for this decision?

2. How are the quality assessment results intended to be used? Will studies be excluded based on their scores? All quality assessment results should be used in a meaningful way and this should be described in the protocol.

Other more minor comments:
Line 83: sentence is not finished
Line 103: increase should be 'increases' or 'an increased'
Line 142: An explanation for why grey literature is being excluded would be beneficial

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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