

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form ([see an example](#)) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below. Some articles will have been accepted based in part or entirely on reviews undertaken for other BMJ Group journals. These will be reproduced where possible.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Prevalence and persistence of depression among undergraduate medical students: a longitudinal study in one UK medical school.
AUTHORS	Quince, Thelma ; Wood, Diana; Parker, Richard; Benson, John

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Prof Philip Cotton Medical School University of Glasgow, UK While I have worked with one of the authors on an earlier unrelated piece of work, there are no competing interests.
REVIEW RETURNED	25-Jun-2012

THE STUDY	This otherwise tight and neat paper leaves the potential for some confusion e.g. 'all students entering Years 1 and 4' really means all students entering Years 1 through to 4, yes?
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REVIEWER	Smithson, Henry University of Sheffield, Academic Unit of Primary Care
REVIEW RETURNED	24-Jun-2012

THE STUDY	This is a well designed study addressing an important area and is well worthy of publication. My only suggestion is that when I read the abstract and the participant section of the method, I assumed that it was measuring just 2 cohorts, those entering year 1 and year 4. This is of course not so and becomes clear as you read the paper but should be addressed.
GENERAL COMMENTS	This is a nice piece of work but there is a difficulty in attrition rates. I believe there is a plan to extend this study to other medical schools and this would be an interesting plan

VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

We have amended both the abstract and the methods section of the paper in line with the reviewers comments. As a result we hope that we have now clearly described the participants in our study. We have also altered the abstract to more closely reflect the order of the research questions as presented in the abstract.

The changes to the abstract are indicated by track changes, those to the text of the main paper have been highlighted in yellow.