

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 2: Coding Manual

Title/Abstract Screening

1. Exclude if no original human data or it is a case study.

Exclude if it is clear from the title and abstract that the article is not an original report of primary data, but for example a letter, editorial, systematic review or meta-analysis, or if it is a case series or single case study. Studies reporting only on animal, cellular, or genetic data are also excluded. Studies that report results in conference abstracts are eligible for inclusion.

2. Exclude if study did not involve administration of the GDS-30, GDS-15, GDS-5 or GDS-4.

Exclude if there is no mention in the title or abstract of any of these versions of the Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS).

3. Exclude if there is no assessment of major depression.

Exclude studies if it is clear from the title and abstract that a clinical interview for depression was not conducted. Only studies that assess adults for a DSM diagnosis of current (30-day or actual presence) MDD/MDE or ICD diagnosis of a current major depressive episode will be included. Studies that include broader diagnostic categories, such as other depressive (e.g., minor depression, dysthymia) or anxiety disorders, are eligible for inclusion only if they may have separate classifications of adults with MDD or major depressive episode in the primary data. It is unlikely that studies can be excluded at the title/abstract level based on differential diagnosis (e.g., major versus major + minor depression).

4. Exclude if studies do not use a validated diagnostic interview to assess major depression.

Only studies that assess adults for a DSM diagnosis of current (30-day or actual presence) MDD/MDE or ICD diagnosis of a current major depressive episode using a validated structured or semi-structured diagnostic interview will be included. Examples of validated diagnostic interviews and other assessment tools that are not validated diagnostic interviews are listed below. Studies that clearly only used a self-report questionnaire to classify patients as depressed are excluded. If studies appear to have conducted a clinical interview to diagnose depression based on the title/abstract review, but it is not clear if a validated diagnostic interview was used, they should be included for full-text review.

Examples of validated diagnostic interviews:

Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI)

Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS)

Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC)
Diagnostisches Interview bei psychischen Störungen im Kindes (Kinder-DIPS)
Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI)
Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (SADS)
Schedules for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry (SCAN)
Structured Clinical Interview for DSM (SCID)

Examples of assessment tools that are not validated diagnostic interviews:

Any self-report measure completed by patients
Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D, HDRS)
Montgomery Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS)
Primary Care Evaluation of Mental Disorders (PRIME-MD)
WHO Major Depression Inventory
International Diagnostic Checklist for ICD-10

5. Exclude if GDS and diagnostic interview not administered within 2 weeks of each other.

Studies are excluded if it is clear based on the title and abstract that the GDS and diagnostic interview were not administered within two weeks of one another, such as in a longitudinal study that administered one at one time point and the other at a different time point.

6. Exclude if sample selection is based on the presence of distress or depression.

Studies of patients who are pre-selected as possibly distressed or depressed (e.g., based on clinician's judgment or screening instrument cut-off) prior to administration of the study screening tool and diagnostic interview are excluded. Studies of patients receiving psychiatric treatment or with psychiatric diagnoses are excluded with the exception of studies of substance or alcohol abuse patients. Studies in which only part of the sample is selected based on distress or depression may be eligible if data for patients not selected due to distress levels can be obtained. If only patients above a cutoff score on the GDS are administered the diagnostic interview, the study is excluded. If, however, a proportion of patients both above and below the GDS cutoff are administered the interview, the study would be included.

7. Exclude if not adults.

Studies are excluded if it is clear from the title/abstract that the study sample does not include adults aged 18 and over. Studies with mixed population samples are eligible for inclusion if data for adults can be obtained. However, studies that assess only pediatric, adolescent, school or undergraduate samples will not be included, even if some participants are at least 18 years old.

Full Text Review

1. Exclude if no original human data or it is a case study.

Exclude if the article is not an original report of primary data, but for example a letter, editorial, systematic review or meta-analysis, or it is a case series or single case study. Studies reporting only on animal, cellular, or genetic data are also excluded. Studies that report results in conference abstracts are eligible for inclusion.

2. Exclude if study did not involve administration of the GDS-30, GDS-15, GDS-5 or GDS-4.

Exclude if patients were not administered the GDS-30, GDS-15, GDS-5 or GDS-4.

3. Exclude if there is no assessment of major depression.

Exclude studies if there is not a clinical interview to diagnose current (30-day or actual) MDD based on DSM or a current major depressive episode based on ICD. Studies that include broader diagnostic categories, such as other depressive (e.g., minor depression, dysthymia) or anxiety disorders, are eligible for inclusion only if they have classified adults with MDD or major depressive episode in the primary data.

Examples of inclusion / exclusion of different depression diagnoses:

DSM-IV-TR:

Include: Major Depression.

Exclude: Dysthymic Disorder, Minor Depression (at least two depressive symptoms are present for two weeks).

ICD-10:

Include: mild, moderate, severe, recurrent depressive episodes.

Exclude: recurrent brief depressive disorder (requires a depressive episode with symptomatic criteria, but lasting less than 2 weeks and requires that the episodes occur at least once per month for 12 consecutive months).

RESEARCH DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA (RDC):

Include: Major Depressive Disorder.

DSM-III:

Include: Major depression.

Exclude: Dysthymic Disorder, atypical affective disorders.

4. Exclude if studies do not use a validated diagnostic interview to assess major depression.

Only studies that assess adults for a DSM diagnosis of current (30-day or actual

presence) MDD or ICD diagnosis of a current major depressive episode using a validated structured or semi-structured diagnostic interview will be included. Examples of validated diagnostic interviews and other assessment tools that are not validated diagnostic interviews are listed below. Studies that clearly only used a self-report questionnaire to classify patients as depressed are excluded.

Examples of validated diagnostic interviews:

Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI)
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Primary Care Evaluation of Mental Disorders (PRIME-MD)
International Diagnostic Checklist for ICD-10

5. Exclude if GDS and diagnostic interview not administered within 2 weeks of each other.

Studies are excluded if the GDS and diagnostic interview were not administered within two weeks of one another. Datasets where some patients were administered the screening tools within 2 weeks of the diagnostic interview and some patients were not will be included if the original data allows us to select patients administered the diagnostic interview and screening tools within the two-week window.

6. Exclude if sample selection is based on the presence of distress or depression.

Studies of patients who are pre-selected as possibly distressed or depressed (e.g., based on clinician's judgment or screening instrument cut-off) prior to administration of the study screening tool and diagnostic interview are excluded. Studies of patients receiving psychiatric treatment or with psychiatric diagnoses are excluded with the exception of studies of substance or alcohol abuse patients. Studies in which only part of the sample is selected based on distress or depression may be eligible if data for patients not selected due to distress levels can be obtained. If only patients above a cutoff score on the GDS are administered the diagnostic interview, the study is excluded. If, however, a proportion of patients both above and below the GDS cutoff are administered the interview, the study would be included.

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