

### **Appendix 3 (as supplied by the authors):** Inclusion and exclusion criteria

**Population:** Asymptomatic adults over the age of 18 years from the general population who are not at high risk for depression, or who are at high risk for depression (including adults with chronic diseases, chronic pain with or without cancer, alcohol or substance abuse disorder, Aboriginal people, perinatal women). Excluded populations are those with bipolar disorders, schizoaffective disorders, and other major psychiatric disorders, as well as children and adolescents. Patients with chronic fatigue syndrome, post-stroke, HIV, Parkinson disease, or anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder are also excluded.

**Intervention:** Screening for depression using screening tools, questionnaires, or instruments. Formal diagnostic testing following a positive screen is not required as most patients do not undergo formal diagnosis following a positive screen.

**Comparator:** No screening

#### **Outcomes:**

- a. Quality of life, suicidality rate (attempts or ideation), all-cause mortality, depression-related mortality, hospitalization rates, changes in symptoms of depression (treatment response or remission).
- b. Harms: Psychological stress (labelling, anxiety, stigma), false positives, false negatives, decreased day-to-day functioning, increased symptoms

**Setting:** Primary care, other outpatient settings (where feedback is provided to the clinician or where feedback is not provided for the question on clinical benefits of screening), specialty clinic setting for high risk patient groups (including adults with chronic illnesses, chronic pain with or without cancer, alcohol and substance abuse disorder, Aboriginals, perinatal women; feedback provided to the clinician or program or feedback not provided).

**Study design:** randomized controlled trials, observational studies with a comparator group. Observational studies without a comparison group will be excluded.

Studies considered for the 'Harms of screening' included any quantitative study design

**Language:** English and French