

Reviewer's report

Title: Psychiatric Services in Primary Care Settings: A Survey of General Practitioners in Thailand

Version: 1 **Date:** 13 March 2006

Reviewer: Steve Kisely

Reviewer's report:

General

This was a postal survey to examine GP's perception on psychiatric problems, drug treatment and service problems in primary care settings in Thailand. I did wonder whether it would be of more interest to a specifically Thai rather than international audience. If it were to be published, the discussion should be expanded to include international comparisons of primary care in countries other than the UK. The absence of such a discussion is surprising given the authors themselves cite a reference to the WHO study of psychological problems in general health care settings, which although 10 years old, would have a lot of this detail (Ref #6). This would give the work more context I also wondered why the authors used DSM rather than the ICD-10 Primary Care Version, which would seem to be a more appropriate classification. In this regard I was surprised that GPs were unfamiliar with mixed depression and anxiety (Para 3, page 10) since this is a common presentation in primary care. The reference (#9) refers to psychiatrists – did it include GPs too? One remarkable feature was the relative absence of newer psychotropics such as SSRIs or atypical antipsychotics. The authors only mention the availability of a generic form of fluoxetine. What about the other SSRIs? Are there barriers to receiving psychotropic medication in Thailand?

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

More details on the Thai health system - are they free at the point of delivery? Are there charges for prescriptions?

More international comparisons to give the work more context

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests