

**Table 2. Suggestions for the design and reporting of future studies of the prevalence of depression in general hospital inpatients**

	<b>Design</b>	<b>Reporting</b>
Setting	Pre-specified inclusion and exclusion criteria for hospitals and wards.	Clear description of where the study took place (local population, healthcare funding system, hospital type, ward type, admission pathways).
Inclusion criteria	Pre-specified inclusion and exclusion criteria for patients.	Clear reporting of the numbers of patients who took part, were excluded or declined to participate.
Sample size	Large enough to adequately address the research question posed by the study, based on a sample size calculation.	Description of the planned sample size and how it was calculated.
Depression Interview	Use of a standard diagnostic interview for depression.	Description of who administered the interview, at what time-point during admission and any deviations from its usual procedure.
Caseness definition	Use of standard diagnostic criteria for depression.	Description of any alterations to the diagnostic criteria that were used in the study.
Findings	Pre-specified analysis plan.	Prevalence reported with 95% confidence intervals.