**Appendix 1: Comparison in subject characteristics between included and excluded subjects**

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| **Subject characteristics** | **Included in analysis** N=9263 | **Not Included in analysis (due to missing data)** N=916 | **P-value** |
| Gender (n, %) |  |  | 0.611 |
| Male | 3,801 (91.8%) | 341 (8.2%) |  |
| Female | 5,272 (91.5%) | 491 (8.5%) |  |
| Age (Mean ± SD) | 49.07 ± 18.07 | 48.60 ± 17.81 | 0.475 |
| Marital Status (n, %) |  |  | 0.772 |
| Married | 5,548 (91.6%) | 511 (8.4%) |  |
| Single/Separated/Divorced/Widowed | 3,484 (91.7%) | 314 (8.3%) |  |
| Employment (n, %) |  |  | 0.381 |
| No | 3,323 (91.4%) | 312 (8.6%) |  |
| Yes | 5,610 (91.9%) | 493 (8.1%) |  |
| Disease co-morbidity (n, %) |  |  | 0.815 |
| None | 4,393 (91.9%) | 387 (8.1%) |  |
| One | 2,279 (91.5%) | 212 (8.5%) |  |
| Two or more | 2,323 (91.6%) | 212 (8.4%) |  |
| Family history mental illness (n, %) |  |  | 0.606 |
| No | 8,067 (91.6%) | 735 (8.4%) |  |
| Yes | 799 (92.2%) | 68 (7.8%) |  |
| Seen a doctor in past 4 weeks (Mean ± SD) | 0.98 ± 1.46 | 0.95 ± 1.35 | 0.537 |
| Self-reported depression/other mental illness history (n, %) |  |  | 0.650 |
| No | 8,135 (91.8%) | 729 (8.2%) |  |
| Yes | 801 (91.3%) | 76 (8.7%) |  |
| Household income (n, %) |  |  | 0.319 |
| ≤HK$30,000 | 2,984 (92.3%) | 248 (7.7%) |  |
| >HK$30,000 | 4,909 (91.7%) | 443 (8.3%) |  |
| PHQ9 item‡ (Mean ± SD) |  |  |  |
| Anhedonia | 0.46 ± 0.76 | 0.43 ± 0.72 | 0.244 |
| Depressed mood | 0.46 ± 0.72 | 0.44 ± 0.66 | 0.543 |
| Sleep disturbance | 0.87 ± 1.04 | 0.89 ± 1.00 | 0.588 |
| Fatigue | 1.06 ± 1.00 | 1.13 ± 0.96 | 0.069 |
| Appetite change | 0.46 ± 0.77 | 0.49 ± 0.76 | 0.411 |
| Worthlessness | 0.31 ± 0.64 | 0.32 ± 0.64 | 0.469 |
| Poor concentration | 0.38 ± 0.73 | 0.36 ± 0.69 | 0.490 |
| Agitated or lethargic | 0.27 ± 0.64 | 0.28 ± 0.65 | 0.553 |
| Suicidal ideation | 0.05 ± 0.30 | 0.06 ± 0.31 | 0.340 |
| Functional impairment§ | 0.21 ± 0.83 | 0.25 ± 0.76 | 0.269 |

Note:

Missing value categories are omitted.

\*Significant differences (p<0.05) between groups by independent t-test or by Chi-square test as appropriate

† Diagnosis made at the time of the index visit and reported by the PCP on a case record forms

‡ “Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by"; The range is 0-3 (0-Not present; 1-Infrequent; 2-Frequent; 3-Very frequent);

§ The range 0-4 (0-Not applicable; 1-No difficult; 2-Some difficult; 3-Difficult; 4-Very difficult)