Supplementary methods

Definition of misclassification:

We considered respondents from the psychiatric outpatient units to be misclassified if there was a mismatch between their reported psychopathology and the unit they attended. Specifically, if respondents from the outpatient unit for unipolar depression reported not having experienced any episodes of depression (or reported prior hypomanic/manic or mixed episodes), they were excluded from the analyses, unless the respondent provided answers consistent with having unipolar depression to the questions pertaining to use social media (questions 22-25) or online dating (questions 47 and 48) during depressive episodes. Similarly, if a respondent from the outpatient unit for bipolar disorder reported not having experienced any episodes of hypomania/mania or any mixed episodes, he or she was excluded, unless the respondent provided answers consistent with having bipolar disorder to the questions pertaining to use of social media (questions 26-36) or online dating (questions 49-57) during hypomanic/manic episodes. This approach was chosen because we considered the validity of the response to the remainder of the questionnaire (on social media/online dating) to be questionable, if the respondents from the outpatient units for unipolar depression and bipolar disorder seemed unaware of their psychiatric condition. Another potential explanation for this mismatch would be if e.g. a questionnaire seemingly stemming from the outpatient unit for unipolar depression (the questionnaires were marked according to study site), had been filled in by a patient attending the outpatient unit for bipolar disorder. Hence, these (relatively few) exclusions were carried out in order to maximize the internal validity of the results of the analyses.