

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**DEPRESSION UPDATE – CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEMS
Comments on the Scope**

Stakeholder Comments

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Section number Indicate section number or ' general ' if your comment relates to the whole document	Comments Please insert each new comment in a new row.
Section 4.1	<p>Chronic pain is highly prevalent in modern British society. Between 30 and 60% of people presenting to a chronic pain clinic have clinical symptoms of depression, and over 50% score above 8 on the Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale.</p> <p>Depression in patients with chronic pain is associated with greater pain intensity, more pain persistence, less life control, more use of passive-avoidant coping strategies, non-compliance with treatment and application for early retirement.</p> <p>In patients with chronic pain, depression is a better predictor of disability than pain intensity or duration. Sickness absence rates and closure of insurance claims are adversely affected by the presence of depression. Rates of suicidal ideation, attempts and completion are increased when depression is associated with chronic pain.</p> <p>CLARK, M. R., & TREISMAN, G. J. Perspectives on pain and depression. In CLARK, M. R., & TREISMAN, G. J. (2006). Pain and depression: an interdisciplinary patient-centered approach. Advances in psychosomatic medicine, v. 25. p 1-28. Basel, Karger.</p>
Section 4.1.1.a	<p>Pain is often a significant symptom in patients with cancer, neurological disorders and diabetes and contributes to a depressive disorder.</p> <p>The British Pain Society believes that chronic pain (pain persisting beyond the expected time of healing, or longer than 3 months) should be included as a chronic physical health problem.</p>

