**Abstract**

The PHQ-4 is an ultra-brief (4 items) screening questionnaire for depression and anxiety. We propose to add one additional response option ("Once or twice", in between "Not at all" and "Several days") to improve its sensitivity to milder alterations, and thus increase its usefulness in subclinical populations. Using Item Response Theory (IRT), we provide evidence that this new option does indeed capture specific portions of the measured constructs in the general population.