



IQWiG Reports – Commission No. S16-05

# Screening for depression<sup>1</sup>

**Extract**

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<sup>1</sup> Translation of the key statement of the final report S16-05 *Screening auf Depression* (Version 1.0; Status: 27 July 2018). Please note: This document was translated by an external translator and is provided as a service by IQWiG to English-language readers. However, solely the German original text is absolutely authoritative and legally binding.

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## **Key statement**

### ***Research question***

The aim of this report is to assess the benefit of systematic screening for depression in primary care when compared to no screening with regard to patient-relevant outcomes.

### ***Conclusion***

The 7 included studies on the screening chain, most of which were conducted in Japan, investigated the outcomes suicide and depression (extent of symptoms and prevalence). From these studies, it was not possible to derive a hint of benefit of screening for depression for either outcome.

No usable data were available for assessing the benefit of early versus later treatment of patients with depression detected by the screening.

Overall, there is no hint of benefit or harm of systematic screening for depression.

*The full report (German version) is published under*  
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