**Appendix A. AHRQ risk of bias criteria**

General instructions: Rate each criterion as 'Good' (low risk of bias), 'Fair', 'Poor' (high risk of bias), or '?' (unclear risk of bias). Factors to consider when rating each criterion are listed below.

**Selection bias**

* Comparability of clinical and control groups in terms of demographics (comprehensive information provided? Matched for demographics, i.e. age, gender, ethnicity, education level, etc.?).
* Validity of method for ascertaining psychiatric disorders (formal diagnostic interviews or symptom rating scales).
* Validity of method and screening procedure for control group.
* Consistency of exclusion criteria between clinical and control groups.
* Representativeness of samples (did the patient group represent individuals with that disorder? Did the control group represent the general population?)
* Appropriateness of adjustment for important confounding variables.

**Attrition bias**

* Completeness of outcome data.
* Appropriate handling of missing data.
* Lack of systematic difference between clinical and control groups in terms of data completeness.
* Lack of systematic difference between completers and non-completers in terms of outcome data.

**Detection bias**

* Blindness of assessors to participants' clinical status.
* Validity of assessment for meta-cognitions.
* Consistency of measure implementation and testing procedure for all participants.

**Reporting bias**

* Completeness of outcome reporting (were all the potential outcomes prespecified by the authors? Were all prespecified outcomes reported?)
* Lack of conflict of interests