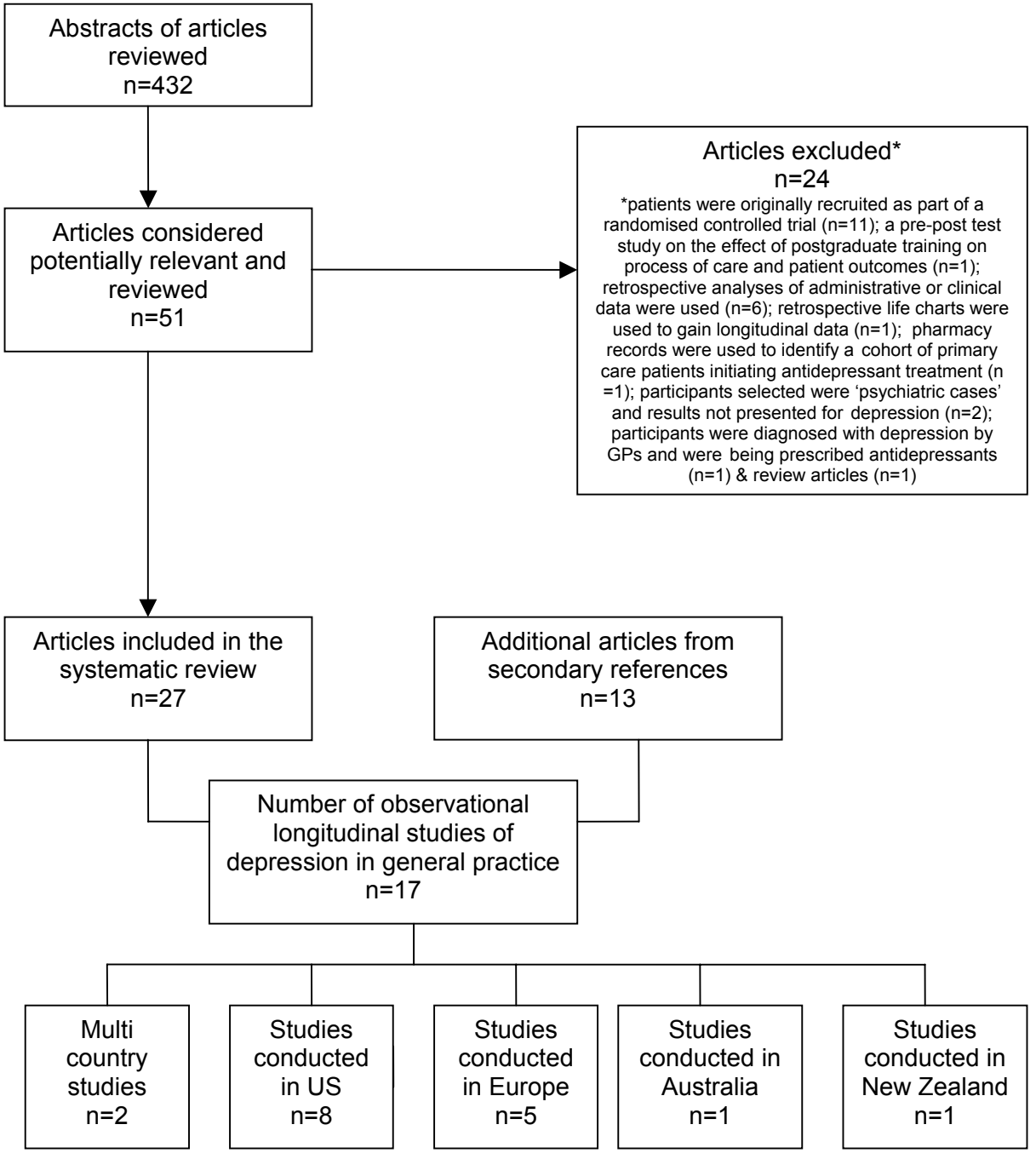
Abstracts of articles reviewed n=432
Articles considered potentially relevant and reviewed n=51
Articles excluded* n=24
*patients were originally recruited as part of a randomised controlled trial (n=11); a pre-post test study on the effect of postgraduate training on process of care and patient outcomes (n=1); retrospective analyses of administrative or clinical data were used (n=6); retrospective life charts were used to gain longitudinal data (n=1); pharmacy records were used to identify a cohort of primary care patients initiating antidepressant treatment (n =1); participants selected were 'psychiatric cases' and results not presented for depression (n=2); participants were diagnosed with depression by GPs and were being prescribed antidepressants (n=1) & review articles (n=1)
Articles included in the systematic review n=27
Additional articles from secondary references n=13
Number of observational longitudinal studies of depression in general practice n=17
Multi country studies n=2
Studies conducted in US n=8
Studies conducted in Europe n=5
Studies conducted in Australia n=1
Studies conducted in New Zealand n=1