

1st informed consent, screening & baseline measurement (T₀)
N= 6300 to outpatients of the participating departments who have a specific chronic disease

Excluded
PHQ-9 negative (<15) or no response

Excluded
Suicidal, psychotic, serious mental impairment, delirium, dementia, language problems, drug/alcohol addiction and/or already psychiatric treatment

MINI interview
N=630

Excluded
Not meeting DSM-IV criteria for major depressive disorder

2nd informed consent

Randomisation

Allocated to intervention N=63

Allocated to care as usual N=63

T₁ questionnaires
(3 months)

T₁ questionnaires
(3 months)

T₂ questionnaires
(6 months)

T₂ questionnaires
(6 months)

T₃ questionnaires
(9 months)

T₃ questionnaires
(9 months)

T₄ questionnaires
(12 months)

T₄ questionnaires
(12 months)