

Dear Sir,

I would like to submit my opposition to the proposal to screen 1.25 million children aged 0-3 years old for mental illness or emerging mental illness.

The definition of infant mental health is still a matter of debate. According to the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood, it seems infants are deemed mentally ill for irregular feeding patterns, difficulty sleeping, crying, calling for absent parent, anxiety, tantrums, shyness, losing track of a favourite stuffed animal and hyperactivity. Any infants exhibit such symptoms and they are normal.

The screening will hugely increase number of infants on anti-depressants. Children on anti-depressants has high risk for committing suicides.

Therefore, I would like to express my opposition to the proposal to screen 1.25 million children aged 0-3 years old for mental illness or emerging mental illness.

Best regards,

Akiko Wood