

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Types of studies	
Included	Observational studies: retrospective studies, case-control studies, cohort studies, follow-up studies or longitudinal studies
Excluded	Experimental studies: intervention evaluation studies, experimental studies, randomized controlled trials Qualitative studies
Types of participants	
Included	Persons of working age, diagnosed with depressive disorder (based on ICD-10 codes DSM-IV), who were unable to work due to depression (and received sickness absence or other work disability benefit due to depression)
Excluded	Participants with common mental disorders or mental disorders (psychological complaints, psychiatric disorders, self-reported psychological symptoms, mental distress) not specified as depression
Types of outcome	
Included	Return to work/ return to economic activity (full-time, part-time) at least for a day, time until end of sickness absence compensation (register data), self-reported return to work, length of sickness absence episode
Excluded	Symptom recovery, improvement in functioning, reduction of disability (if not clearly indicating return to work), onset of sickness absence/work disability, recurrence of sickness absence/work disability