

**Interview guide: Qualitative evaluation of the online peer support community “Depression Connect” (DC)**

By: Dorien Smit and Amber Dings

<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Introduce yourself            Explain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the rationale and objectives of the study (and research project)</li> <li>• anonymity, confidentiality, voluntary participation; possibility to ask for a recess or end the interview at any time</li> <li>• your role as researcher</li> <li>• audio recording</li> <li>• expected duration: 45 minutes</li> <li>• informed consent</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<p>Screening and brief synopsis of the interview            Any questions/comments?</p>
<b>Reasons for signing up with DC</b>	<p>When and why did you subscribe to DC?            What was your aim when you first joined DC?</p>
<b>Forum use in general</b>	<p>In general, <b>when</b> do you use the forum, <b>why</b>, i.e. with what <b>objective</b>?  <i>For example: did you have a specific question/need for information or simply out of general interest?</i></p>
<p><b>Merits</b></p> <p><b>Participation style(s)</b></p>	<p>Can you give an <b>example</b> when you benefited from forum use?</p> <p>When is the forum (most) useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For <b>what</b> goals</li> <li>- <b>When</b> (under which circumstances)</li> <li>- In <b>which state of mind</b>? In a more critical and/or stable phase of depression?</li> </ul> <p>Why opt for this online forum; in what way(s) does it <b>differ</b> from other options (<i>e.g. professional help, social support in daily life</i>)?            How would you describe the <b>usefulness</b> of the messages of other users?            Do you think/feel you can <b>help or support</b> other DC users?            Would you recommend DC and, if so, to <b>whom</b> would you recommend it?</p> <p><b>Personal/social/clinical recovery:</b> To what extent do you benefit from DC in coping with your depression on a daily basis?</p>
<b>Demerits</b>	<p>Can you give an example when you did not benefit from the forum?</p> <p><b>When, for whom or under which circumstances is the forum not useful? Why?</b></p>
<b>Current role/relevance of DC</b>	<p>What is the role/relevance of DC in your life at this moment?</p>
<b>Role DC in relation to other means of (in)formal support</b>	<p>What is the role of DC in relation to other informal support and/or formal care for depression?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social network</li> <li>- Mental health care (psychological/psychopharmacological treatment)</li> <li>- Live peer support</li> </ul> <p>Have you benefited from DC use in ways you had not expected?</p>
<b>Open question</b>	<p>Do you have something to add, topics we did not discuss that you think are relevant to characterize the (dis)advantages of Depression Connect?</p>

<b>Concluding the interview</b>	Are you willing to participate in an interim assessment and provide feedback on the interim results? Thank the participant for his/her contributions
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