**Additional file 3: List of excluded studies**

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| Study ID | Reason for Exclusion |
| Agerbo et al[1] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not outcome of interest |
| Boelen et al[2] | Not exposure of interest  |
| Bolton et al[3] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Brent et al[4] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not outcome of interest |
| Brent et al[5] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not outcome of interest |
| Brent et al[6] | No comparison group; not outcome of interest |
| Brent et al[7] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not outcome of interest |
| Brent et al[8] | Not exposure of interest; not outcome of interest |
| Bron et al[9] | Not outcome of interest |
| Byrne and Raphael[10] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not exposure of interest |
| Cerel et al[11] | Not outcome of interest |
| Cerel et al[12] | No comparison group; not outcome of interest |
| Chen et al[13] | Not exposure of interest |
| Clarke and Wrigley[14] | Use of non-bereaved controls |
| Cleiren et al[15] | Not outcome of interest |
| Cho et al[16] | Use of non-bereaved controls |
| De Groot et al[17] | Not outcome of interest |
| Dyregrov and Dyregrov[18] | No comparison group  |
| Erlangsen et al[19] | Not exposure of interest; not outcome of interest  |
| Feigelman et al[20] | Not outcome of interest  |
| Feigelman et al[21] | Not outcome of interest |
| Floyd et al[22] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not outcome of interest |
| Hamdan et al[23] | No comparison group; not outcome of interest |
| Hamdan et al[24] | No comparison group; not outcome of interest |
| Harrington et al[25] | Narrative review; not exposure of interest; not population of interest |
| Kovarsky[26] | Not outcome of interest |
| Levav et al[27] | Not exposure of interest |
| Kvikstad et al[28] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Li et al[29] | Not exposure of interest; not outcome of interest |
| Li et al[30] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Lohan and Murphy[31] | Not exposure of interest; not outcome of interest |
| McIntosh and Kelly[32] | Not outcome of interest |
| Melhem et al[33] | Not outcome of interest |
| Melhem et al[34] | Not outcome of interest |
| Melhem et al[35] | Not outcome of interest |
| Mitchell et al[36] | No comparison group |
| Mittendorfer-Rutz et al[37] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not exposure of interest |
| Muniz-Cohen et al[38] | Use of non-bereaved controls; not outcome of interest |
| Murphy et al[39] | Randomised Controlled Trial |
| Murphy et al[40] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Murphy et al[41] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Murphy et al[42] | Not outcome of interest |
| Murphy et al[43] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Murphy et al[44] | Not outcome of interest |
| Murphy et al[45] | Randomised Controlled Trial |
| Pitman et al[46] | Not outcome of interest |
| Prigerson et al[47] | Not exposure of interest |
| Qin et al[48] | Not exposure or outcome of interest; use of non-bereaved controls |
| Range et al[49] | Not outcome of interest |
| Rostila et al[50] | Not outcome of interest |
| Rostila et al[51] | Not outcome of interest |
| Rubenowitz et al[52] | Use of non-bereaved controls |
| Saarinen et al[53] | No comparison group |
| Ségal[54] | Not outcome of interest |
| Séguin et al[55] | Not outcome of interest |
| Sorensen et al[56] | Not outcome of interest |
| Wolchik et al[57] | Not outcome of interest |
| Zetamer et al[58] | Not outcome of interest |
| Zisook and Lyons[59] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |
| Zisook and Shuchter[60] | Results not presented separately for mode of death |

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