Considering the enormous burden and costs of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), especially among older persons, knowledge of any amenable risk factor is very important. Depression is such risk factor. Depression has a high prevalence in all medical settings, it is eminently treatable, and it raises the subsequent risk of CVD events and mortality three to five fold among patients with CVD. In this thesis we investigate whether depression is a risk factor for the development of CVD in Dutch general practice patients of 55 years and older. In addition, we explored pathways through which depression may be linked to CVD. Data used for this thesis is from a cohort of major depressive patients and non-depressed controls with two years of follow-up.