



Depression screening and follow-up



Depression screenings are an essential component of every primary care visit. They ensure providers care for the whole person – not just physical symptoms. Many people may not realize they are experiencing depression or may feel hesitant to bring it up themselves.

Regular screenings help identify concerns early, before symptoms worsen and begin to affect daily life. Discussing depression with patients normalizes mental health conversations and reduces stigma. When a screening is positive, providers have a responsibility to connect members with appropriate resources and supports, and to continue monitoring their well-being over time.

HEDIS depression screen measures:

- Depression Screening and Follow-Up for Adolescents and Adults (DSF-E)
- Utilization of the PHQ-9 to Monitor Depression Symptoms for Adolescents and Adults (DMS-E)
- Depression Remission or Response for Adolescents and Adults (DRR-E)
- Prenatal Depression Screening and Follow-Up (PND-E)
- Postpartum Depression Screening and Follow-Up (PDS-E)

For HEDIS measures, all depression screenings and follow-ups must be submitted with CPT codes and LOINC codes to get credit.

Core set measures:

- Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan (CDF-CH; age 12-17 yrs & CDF-AD; age 18 and older)
- Prenatal & Postpartum Depression Screening and Follow-Up (No age restrictions)

For core set measures, all depression screenings and follow-ups must be submitted with HCPCS, LOINC, and CPT codes to get credit.

Instruments for adolescents (12 to 17 yrs)	Total score LOINC codes	Positive finding	Measures
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)	44261-6	Total score ≥ 10	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Patient Health Questionnaire Modified for Teens (PHQ-9M)	89204-2	Total score ≥ 10	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)	55758-7	Total score ≥ 3	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Beck Depression Inventory-Fast Screen (BDI-FS)	89208-3	Total score ≥ 8	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale-Revised (CESD-R)	89205-9	Total score ≥ 17	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	99046-5	Total score ≥ 10	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
PROMIS Depression	71965-8	Total score (T Score) ≥ 60	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Instruments for adults (18+ years)	Total score LOINC codes	Positive finding	Measures
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)	44261-6	Total score ≥ 10	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)	55758-7	Total score ≥ 3	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Beck Depression Inventory-Fast Screen (BDI-FS)	89208-3	Total score ≥ 8	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II)	89209-1	Total score ≥ 20	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale-Revised (CESD-R)	89205-9	Total score ≥ 17	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Duke Anxiety-Depression Scale (DUKE-AD)	90853-3	Total score ≥ 30	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Geriatric Depression Scale Short Form (GDS)	48545-8	Total score ≥ 5	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E
Geriatric Depression Scale Long Form (GDS)	48544-1	Total score ≥ 10	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E
Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	99046-5	Total score ≥ 10	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
My Mood Monitor (M3)	71777-7	Total score ≥ 5	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
PROMIS Depression	71965-8	Total score (T Score) ≥ 60	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E
Clinically Useful Depression Outcome Scale (CUDOS)	90221-3	Total score ≥ 31	DSF-E, DMS-E, DRR-E, PND-E, PDS-E

Depression screening CPT code

96127

Common CPT codes for positive screen follow-up:

Codes	Description
99211-99215	Standard Evaluation & Management codes for established patients, used for the actual assessment/visit
90832-90834	For psychotherapy/counseling sessions (e.g., 30-45 mins)
90832-90834	For brief interventions (15+ mins) for substance abuse, sometimes applied to mental health
99492-99494	For chronic care management, if applicable for ongoing depression management

Core set measures (submitted with HCPCS, LOINC, & CPT):

Code	Description	Code system
G8431	Screening for depression is documented as being positive and a follow-up plan is documented	HCPCS Level II
G8510	Screening for depression is documented as negative; a follow-up is not required	HCPCS Level II



Best practices

- Providers looking for a best practice should consider completing a PHQ-2 during every visit. All patients that screen positive would receive a PHQ-9 the same day.
- General best practice for a member who has a positive screen is to ensure appropriate follow-up occurs within 30 days.
- If the PHQ-2 results in a positive score, but there is a negative finding from the PHQ-9 completed on the same day, it will qualify as evidence of follow-up.
- If you or one of your patients needs assistance locating resources for follow-up, please reach out to our member services team at **1-855-232-3596 (TTY:711)**. We're here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

