

Depression Screening and Follow-Up for Adolescents and Adults (DSF)

The DSF measure is being added to the Medicare Stars program for measurement year 2027. Please see details below.

Measure Description

The percentage of persons 12 years of age and older who were screened for clinical depression using a standardized instrument and, if screened positive, received follow-up care.

- Depression Screening (1). The percentage of persons who were screened for clinical depression using a standardized instrument.
- Follow-Up on Positive Screen (2). The percentage of persons who received follow-up care within 30 days of a positive depression screen finding.

Numerator

Numerator 1—Depression screening. A documented result for depression screening, using an age-appropriate standardized instrument, performed between January 1 and December 1 of the measurement period.

Instruments for Adults (18+ Years)	Total Score LOINC Codes	Positive Finding
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) [®]	44261-6	Total score ≥10
Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) ^{®1}	55758-7	Total score ≥3
Beck Depression Inventory-Fast Screen (BDI-FS) ^{®1,2}	89208-3	Total score ≥8
Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II)	89209-1	Total score ≥20
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale—Revised (CESD-R)	89205-9	Total score ≥17
Duke Anxiety—Depression Scale (DUKE-AD) ^{®2}	90853-3	Total score ≥30
Geriatric Depression Scale Short Form (GDS) ¹	48545-8	Total score ≥5
Geriatric Depression Scale Long Form (GDS)	48544-1	Total score ≥10
Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	99046-5	Total score ≥10
My Mood Monitor (M-3) [®]	71777-7	Total score ≥5
PROMIS Depression	71965-8	Total score (T Score) ≥60
PROMIS Emotional Distress—Depression—Short Form	77861-3	Total score (T Score) ≥60
Clinically Useful Depression Outcome Scale (CUDOS)	90221-3	Total score ≥31

Numerator 2—Follow-up on positive screen. Persons who received follow-up care on or up to 30 days after the date of the first positive screen (31 total days). Any of the following on or up to 30 days after the first positive screen:

- An outpatient, telephone, e-visit or virtual check-in follow-up visit with a diagnosis of depression or other behavioral health condition.
- A depression case management encounter that documents assessment for symptoms of depression or a diagnosis of depression or other behavioral health condition.
- A behavioral health encounter, including assessment, therapy, collaborative care or medication management.
- A diagnosis of encounter for exercise counseling (ICD-10-CM code Z71.82*).
- A dispensed antidepressant medication.

OR

- Documentation of additional depression screening on a full-length instrument indicating either no depression or no symptoms that require follow-up (i.e., a negative screen) on the same day as a positive screen on a brief screening instrument.
 - For example, if there is a positive screen resulting from a PHQ-2 score, documentation of a negative finding from a PHQ-9 performed on the same day qualifies as evidence of follow-up.

Denominator

Denominator 1: The initial population minus denominator exclusions.

Denominator 2: Persons from numerator 1 with a positive finding for depression between January 1 and December 1 of the measurement period.

Denominator Exclusions

History of bipolar disorder: Persons with a history of bipolar disorder any time during the person's history through the last day of the year prior to the measurement period.

Depression: Persons with depression that starts during the year prior to the measurement period.