



Depression Screening and Follow-Up

Physicians, practitioners and other providers are encouraged to screen patients for depression and other behavioral health conditions. This guide outlines best practices for depression screening, documentation, follow-up care and coding requirements.

Best practices

- Offer to assist patients with low health literacy on completing the questionnaire and ensuring screening tools and treatment are culturally appropriate and offered in the patient’s first language.
- Discuss the results and address any questions or concerns during the appointment and work with the care team to coordinate follow-up care for patients with a positive screen.
- Contact Health Net* at HEDIS_QIPM@healthnet.com to initiate data sharing, to include required Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) and files from electronic health record (EHR)/electronic medical record (EMR) systems.
- Set flags if available in EHR or develop tracking methods for patients who may need screenings and follow-up visits.
- Ensure all services conducted during the visit are coded appropriately, including depression screening LOINC codes.
- Have a standard workflow in place for patients answering “yes” regarding suicidal ideation. Coordinate care between physical and behavioral health. For example: Screen with the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Score and share the 998 call, text or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) resource.
- Reach out proactively within 24 hours if the patient does not keep scheduled appointment to schedule another.
- Consider telehealth visits when in-person visits are not feasible.
- Ensure the following are included for documentation to be acceptable:
 - Screening tool
 - LOINC code
 - Screening score
 - Interpretation (negative or positive)

Frequently used tools for screening

Instrument	LOINC code	Negative screen	Positive screen
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) [®]	44261-6	Total score ≤ 9	Total score ≥ 10
Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) [®]	55758-7	Total score ≤ 2	Total score ≥ 3
Beck Depression Inventory — Fast Screen (BDI-FS) [®]	89208-3	Total score ≤ 7	Total score ≥ 8
Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	99046-5	Total score ≤ 9	Total score ≥ 10

(continued)

Depression Screening and Follow-Up (cont.)

Acceptable follow-up examples

Encounter type	CPT codes	HCPCS codes
Outpatient or telehealth with a depression or behavioral health diagnosis	98960-98962, 98966, 98970-98972, 98970-98981, 99202-99205, 99211-99215, 99242-99245, 99078, 99341-99345, 99347-99350, 99381-99387, 99391-99397, 99401-99404, 99411-99412, 99421-99423, 99545, 99458, 99483	G0463, T1015, G0071, G2010, G2012, G2250-2252
Behavioral health visit (assessment, therapy, collaborative care or medication management)	90791-90792, 90832-90834, 90836-90839, 90845-90847, 90853, 90865, 90867-90870, 90875-90876, 90880, 90887, 99484, 99492	G0155, G0176-G0177, G0409-G0411, G0511-G0512, H0002, H0004, H0034-H0037, H0039-H0040, H2000-H2001, H2010-H2020, S0201, S9480, S9484-S9485
Depression case management encounter documenting assessments or diagnosis	99484, 99492-99494, 90791-90792, 99366	G0512, T1016-T1017, T2022-T2023
Dispensed antidepressant medication	N/A	Codes will vary depending on medication, dosing and administration
Additional evaluation for depression (e.g., negative PHQ-9 after positive PHQ-2)	96127	G8510 (Negative screen) G8431 (Positive screen)

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