



NETWORK Notification

Notice Date: October 8, 2026
To: Georgia Marketplace, Ohio Marketplace, Nevada Marketplace, Wisconsin Marketplace* and West Virginia Marketplace Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: Depression Screening and Follow-up Care for Adolescents and Adults

CareSource is again highlighting the Depression Screening and Follow-Up (DSF-E) HEDIS® measure to support quality patient care for adolescents and adults. Providers are encouraged to review the information below and take steps to ensure eligible patients are screened annually and receive timely follow-up care when indicated.

What is the HEDIS DSF-E Measure?

This measure assesses whether patients aged 12 and older are screened for depression at least once each calendar year using a standardized tool. When the result is positive, receive timely follow-up care within 30 days.

Please note, as many practices are using the PHQ-2 tool, if the result of the PHQ-2 tool is positive, a negative PHQ-9 on the same date of service fully satisfies both screening and follow-up compliance.

Why DSF-E Matters:

- Depression can significantly affect daily functioning, overall health and quality of life.
- Patients who are not screened may go undiagnosed and untreated.
- Timely follow-up after a positive screen supports treatment and helps reduce complications.

Recommended Actions:

- Screen patients aged 12 and older for depression using a validated tool at each office visit, and at least once per calendar year.
- Document screening results clearly in the medical record.
- For positive screens, complete appropriate follow-up such as assessment, treatment or referral within the required time frame.
- Coordinate mental health services and monitor progress.
- Repeat depression screening using the PHQ-9 at subsequent encounters for ongoing monitoring of depression symptoms and treatment effectiveness.

Details From the MY2026 DSF-E Measure Specifications:

The table below lists examples of qualifying depression screening tools and associated positive score thresholds. Links are included for the commonly used PHQ-2, PHQ-9 and Edinburgh Postnatal tools.

Standardized Instrument	Age ≤ 17	Age 18+	Positive Finding: Total Score ≥
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-2)	X	X	3
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)	X	X	10
Patient Health Questionnaire Modified for Teens (PHQ-9M)	X		10
Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	X	X	10
My Mood Monitor (M-3)		X	5
Geriatric Depression Scale Short Form (GDS)		X	5
Geriatric Depression Scale Long Form (GDS)		X	1
PROMIS Depression	X	X	60
Beck Depression Inventory (BD-I)		X	20
Beck Depression Inventory-Fast Screen (BDI-FS)	X	X	8
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale-Revisited (CESD-R)	X	X	17
Duke Anxiety-Depression Scale (DUKE-AD)		X	30
Clinically Useful Depression Outcome Scale (CUDOS)		X	31

Where the screening result is **positive**, the examples below qualify as follow-up care when completed within **30 days** of the positive result.

- An outpatient, phone, e-visit, or virtual visit diagnosing depression or another mental health condition
- A depression case management encounter documenting symptom assessment or diagnosis
- A mental health encounter involving assessment, therapy, collaborative care, medication management, or antidepressant dispensation
- A diagnosis of encounter for exercise counseling (ICD-10-CM code Z71.82)
- A dispensed antidepressant medication

Questions?

For more information about depression screening and follow-up or coding for compliance, contact your Health Partner Representative or Provider Services at (833) 230-2101.

*Plans issued by Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative

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