

Depression Screening and Follow-up Requirements During Adult Wellness Visits And Outpatient Visits

(18 Years and Older)

Depression screening must occur on the date of the encounter (wellness visits + outpatient visits) or within 14 days prior to the encounter using an age-appropriate standardized depression screening tool. If the screening is positive, a follow-up plan must be documented on the date of the qualifying encounter.

Key Points For Compliance

Required HCPCS Level II Codes

- **G8431:** Positive screen for depression on the date of an outpatient visit or up to 14 days prior using a standardized tool with a follow-up plan documented
- **G8510:** Negative screen for depression on the date of an outpatient visit or up to 14 days prior using a standardized tool.



Couple HCPCS Level II codes with an assessment-specific LOINC code to identify depression screening measurements and observations.



- LOINC: 44261-6 ▪ LOINC: 89205-9 ▪ LOINC: 90853-3 ▪ LOINC: 48545-8
- LOINC: 55758-7 ▪ LOINC: 71777-7 ▪ LOINC: 89209-1 ▪ LOINC: 48544-1
- LOINC: 89208-3 ▪ LOINC: 71965-8 ▪ LOINC: 99046-5 ▪ LOINC: 89206-7
- LOINC: 89209-1 ▪ LOINC: 90221-3 ▪ LOINC: 73832-8 ▪ LOINC: 77861-3

Document a Follow-up Plan(s) if Positive Screening Results:

- Referral to a provider for additional evaluation
- Pharmacological interventions
- Other interventions for the treatment of depression

Key Takeaways

- Screening must be age appropriate and standardized
- Document a follow-up plan for positive screens
- Use correct G-codes coupled with LOINC codes
- Screening can occur up to 14 days prior to encounter

Approved Screening Tools

Adult:

- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)
- Beck Depression Inventory (BDI or BDI-II)
- Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)
- Depression Scale (DEPS)
- Duke Anxiety-Depression Scale (DADS)
- Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)
- Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (CSDD)
- PRIME MD-PHQ2, Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D)
- Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology Self-Report (QID-SR)
- Computerized Adaptive Testing Depression Inventory (CAT-DI)
- Computerized Adaptive Diagnostic Screener (CAD-MDD)

Prenatal:

- Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale
- Postpartum Depression Screening Scale
- Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9)
- Beck Depression Inventory, Beck Depression Inventory-II
- Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale
- Zung Self-rating Depression Scale