



Depression Screening and Follow-Up on Positive Screen Tip Sheet

What is the CMS Star Rating Program?

CMS uses a five-star quality rating system to measure the experiences Medicare beneficiaries have with their health plan and health care system – the Star Rating Program. Health plans are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 stars, with 5 being the highest. These ratings are then published on the Medicare Plan Finder at medicare.gov to help consumers compare health plans more easily.

Measure Description

Weight: 1

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

1. *Depression Screening* - The percentage of members 12 years of age and older who were screened for clinical depression using a standardized instrument.
2. *Follow-Up on Positive Screen* - The percentage of members 12 years of age and older who received follow-up care within 30 days of a positive depression screen finding.

Measure Source

- 1/1 – 12/31

Stars/Quality Specifications

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

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

Best Practice/Call to Action

Follow-Up After Positive Screening:

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 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.

Studies have found that patient outcomes improve when there is collaboration between a primary care provider, case manager and a mental health specialist to screen for depression, monitor symptoms, provide treatment and refer to specialty care as needed.



Coding and Documentation Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires the use of an age-appropriate screening instrument that aligns with the patient.• Screening can be captured by using health risk assessments with questions that align with a specific instrument that is validated for depression screening.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example, if a health risk assessment includes questions from the PHQ-2, it counts as screening if the member answered the questions and a total score is calculated.

If you have questions, please contact your provider relations specialist.