



The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) supports depression screening in the primary care setting beneficial, and recommends clinical screening for all adults. Medicare covers an annual depression screening (G0444; 15 minutes) for adults in a primary care setting. It is a required component of the initial Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) and optional for the subsequent AWV. The PHQ-9 is an example of an assessment tool.

PHQ-9 Total Score	Depression Severity
1 - 4	Minimal Depression
5 - 9	Mild Depression
10 - 14	Moderate Depression
15 - 19	Moderately Severe Depression
20 - 27	Severe Depression

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5 (DSM-5), patients must exhibit five of nine symptoms for at least two weeks to qualify for an initial diagnosis of major depressive disorder of which one symptom is either (1) depressive mood or (2) loss of interest or pleasure.

- » Depressed mood
- » Loss of interest or pleasure in most activities
- » Significant weight loss or weight gain
- » Insomnia or hypersomnia
- » Psychomotor agitation or retardation
- » Fatigue or loss of energy
- » Thoughts of worthlessness or inappropriate guilt
- » Poor concentration or indecisiveness
- » Recurrent thoughts about death or suicidal ideation

Documentation Tips

Include the episode, severity and/or the status of the current episode

Single Episode: An individual can experience only one single episode during his/her lifetime

Recurrent Episode: An episode is considered recurrent when there is an interval of at least two consecutive months between separate episodes during which criteria are not met for a major depressive episode.

In Remission: Whether or not a patient is actively being treated for MDD (for example, receiving counseling, taking antidepressive medication, and is “stable”) the provider should still document and code the remission status rather than ‘history of’.

Partial Remission: Occasional symptoms from a previous major depressive episode without meeting the criteria or a hiatus lasting less than two months without any significant symptoms.

Full Remission: No significant signs or symptoms of the disturbance present during the past two months.

ICD-10-CM Codes	Description	HCC	ICD-10-CM Codes	Description	HCC
F32.0	Major depressive disorder, single episode, mild	59	F33.0	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, mild	59
F32.1	Major depressive disorder, single episode, moderate	59	F33.1	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, moderate	59
F32.2	Major depressive disorder, single episode, severe without psychotic features	59	F33.2	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe without psychotic features	59
F32.3	Major depressive disorder, single episode, severe with psychotic features	59	F33.3	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, with psychotic symptoms	59
F32.4	Major depressive disorder, single episode, in partial remission	59	F33.40	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, in remission, unspecified	59
F32.5	Major depressive disorder, single episode, in full remission	59	F33.41	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, in partial remission	59
F32.81	Premenstrual dysphoric disorder	Not an HCC	F33.42	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, in full remission	59
F32.89	Other specified depressive episode	Not an HCC	F33.8	Other recurrent depressive disorders	59
F32.9	Major depressive disorder, single episode, unspecified	Not an HCC	F33.9	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, unspecified	59