

Patient Health Questionnaire – PHQ-9

Patient name: _____ Date: _____

1. Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?

	Not at all (0)	Several days (1)	More than half the days (2)	Nearly every day (3)
a. Little interest or pleasure in doing things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Trouble falling/staying asleep, sleeping too much.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Feeling tired or having little energy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Poor appetite or overeating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Feeling bad about yourself, or that you are a failure, or have let yourself or your family down.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching TV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed. Or the opposite; being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around more than usual.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself in some way.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. If you checked off any problem on this questionnaire so far, how difficult have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?

Not difficult
at all

Somewhat
difficult

Very
difficult

Extremely
difficult

TOTAL SCORE _____

Instructions – How To Score The PHQ-9

Major depressive disorder is suggested if:

1. Of the 9 items, 5 or more are checked as at least ‘more than half the days’
2. Either item a. or b. is positive, that is, at least ‘more than half the days’

Other depressive syndrome is suggested if:

1. Of the 9 items, a., b., or c., are checked as at least ‘more than half the days’
2. Either item a., or b. is positive, that is, at least ‘more than half the days’.

Also, PHQ-9 scores can be used to plan and monitor treatment. To score the instrument, tally each response by the number value under the answer headings, (not at all=0, several days=1, more than half the days=2, and nearly every day=3). Add the numbers together to total the score on the bottom of the questionnaire. Interpret the score by using the guide listed below.

Guide for Interpreting PHQ-9 Scores

Score	Action
0-4	The score suggests the patient may not need depression treatment
5-14	Mild major depressive disorder. Physician uses clinical judgment about treatment, based on patient’s duration of symptoms and functional impairment.
15-19	Moderate-major depressive disorder. Warrants treatment for depression, using antidepressant, psychotherapy or a combination of treatment.
20 or higher	Severe major depressive disorder. Warrants treatment with antidepressant, with or without psychotherapy, follow frequently.

Functional Health Assessment

The instrument also includes a functional health assessment. This asks the patient how emotional difficulties or problems impact work, things at home, or relationships with other people. Patient responses can be one of four: Not difficult at all, Somewhat difficult, Very difficult, Extremely difficult. The last two responses suggest that the patient’s functionality is impaired. After treatment begins, functional status and number score can be measured to assess patient improvement.