



## PREV-12: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan

### 2024 Performance Year

Medicare (MSSP)

#### Measure Description

Percentage of patients aged 12 years and older screened for depression during the encounter or up to 14 days prior to the date of the encounter using an age appropriate standardized depression screening tool in the performance year **and** if positive, a follow-up plan documented on the date of or two days after the date of the eligible encounter in the performance year.

Intent: The intent of the measure is to screen for depression in patients who have never had a diagnosis of depression or bipolar disorder prior to the eligible encounter.

#### Required Exclusions

- Patients who have been previously diagnosed with bipolar disorder or depression
- Patients receiving hospice or palliative care at any time during the performance year
- Patients who moved out of country during the performance year
- Patients who passed away during the performance year

#### Denominator Exceptions

- Patient refuses to participate during the performance year
- Documentation of medical reason for not screening patient for depression (e.g., cognitive, functional, or motivational limitations that may impact accuracy of results; patient is in an urgent or emergent situation where time is of the essence and to delay treatment would jeopardize the patient's health status) in the performance year.

#### Documentation Tips

- Depression screening can be performed before the office visit (no more than 14 days prior) but must be reviewed and documented in the medical record on the date of the encounter or up to days after. The plan must be provided to and discussed with the patient.
- Documented follow-up for a positive depression screening must include one or more of the following:
  - Referral to a provider for additional evaluation and assessment to formulate a follow-up plan for a positive depression screen
  - Pharmacological interventions
  - Other interventions or follow-up for the diagnosis or treatment of depression
- It is recommended that both a score and clinician interpretation of the score is documented, especially when a patient screens positive. **At a minimum, the medical record must contain documentation of the tool's name and results of the screening with a score OR clinician interpretation of positive or negative for depression.** Each standardized screening tool provides guidance on whether a particular score is considered positive for depression.
- The patient only has to be screened once during the performance year.
- Screening for depression may be completed during a telehealth or home-based encounter.

#### Resources

2024 CMS WebInterface v8.0