

Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) for Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Providers

The following **PHQ-2 Pre-Screening** is a tool to assist providers with establishing whether or not a depressive disorder is likely to be present in a member.

Over the last two weeks, you have been bothered with the following:	Not at all	Several days	More than half of the days	Nearly every day
Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	0	1	2	3

Score:

- 0-2 = Normal
- 3 or more = a depressive disorder is likely

The following **PHQ-9 Screening** is the follow-up tool to aid in a member's diagnosis of depression and can be used to monitor symptoms to track the severity and improvement with treatment. The tool uses the nine questions below to determine the member's score.

Over the last two weeks, you have been bothered with the following:	Not at all	Several days	More than half of the days	Nearly every day
Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	0	1	2	3
Trouble falling or staying asleep or sleeping too much	0	1	2	3
Feeling tired or having little energy	0	1	2	3
Poor appetite or overeating	0	1	2	3
Feeling bad about yourself – or feeling that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down	0	1	2	3
Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television	0	1	2	3
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 a lot more than usual	0	1	2	3
Thoughts that you would be better off dead or hurting yourself in some way	0	1	2	3

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Based on the PHQ-9 score, the depression severity is determined. Providers can utilize the proposed actions that correspond to the level of depression severity.

PHQ-9 Score	Depression Severity	Proposed Actions
0-4	None or Minimal	None
5-9	Mild	Watch and repeat PHQ-9 in follow up
10-14	Moderate	Consider counseling or pharmacotherapy
15-19	Moderately Severe	Active treatment with psychotherapy or pharmacotherapy
20-27	Severe	Expedited referral to a mental health specialist for treatment or collaborative management

Advantages of using PHQ-9 screening tool:

- Validated screening and monitoring tool
- Appropriate for ages 12 years and older
- Facilitates the diagnosis of major depression
- Helpful for monitoring symptoms over time
- Easy to learn and use

As a requirement from the Department of Health Care Services, Partnership HealthPlan of California must report PHQ-9 scores and dates screened for every member in the ECM benefit. Partnership has incorporated this measure into the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) for ECM providers to obtain and receive incentive payments for meeting this reporting requirement. The percentage of members these scores are collected from will correspond to the payment providers will receive for their efforts, as listed below.

Partnership's ECM QIP incentive payments:

- Reporting 90% or more of ECM enrolled members, provider will receive full payment
- Reporting 80-89% of ECM enrolled members, provider will receive partial payment
- Reporting 79% or less of ECM enrolled members, provider will receive no payment

If ECM providers cannot provide PHQ screening to members, they may contact the member's primary care provider.

For questions regarding the required measures for ECM QIP, please email ecmqip@partnershiphp.org.