

Quality Measure: Screening for Depression, and Documenting a Follow-Up Plan

Depression screening remains one of the quality measures for Prima CARE in 2019. Although the quality measure requires screening only once a year, given the prevalence of depression in primary care, more frequent screening certainly makes sense.

The PHQ-2 smartform is opened from the smartform dropdown at the upper left corner of the progress note – now called “PHQ (2015 Edition)”.

The screenshot shows a patient's medical record interface. At the top, there is a patient profile card with contact information for FALL RIVER, MA. Below this, a navigation bar includes 'Medical Summary | CDSS | Alerts | Labs | DI | Procedures | Growth'. A dropdown menu is open, showing options like 'Asthma', 'Audit-C', 'PHQ2', and 'PHQ2 (2015 Edition)'. The 'PHQ2 (2015 Edition)' option is highlighted. To the right, there are buttons for 'Scribe' and 'Orders'. Below the dropdown, patient information is displayed: 'CDSS2, Ataylor DOB: 01/07/1965 Age: 257 Primary Insurance: Workers Comp'. The address is '438 S MAIN ST, FALL RIVER, MA-02721-5341'. The encounter date is '10/07/2019' and the facility is 'Prima CARE Kney'.

The screenshot shows the 'Depression Screening PHQ2 (2015 Edition)' smartform. The patient's name is 'CDSS2 Ataylor Test' and the date is '10/07/2019'. The form contains two sections of questions:

Little interest or pleasure in doing things?

- Not at all
- Several days
- More than half the days
- Nearly every day
- Declined to specify

Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?

- Not at all
- Several days
- More than half the days
- Nearly every day
- Declined to specify

Any score above 0 on the PHQ-2 requires that a PHQ-9 smartform be completed (note that if the PHQ-2 is > 1, then the PHQ-9 smartform opens automatically).

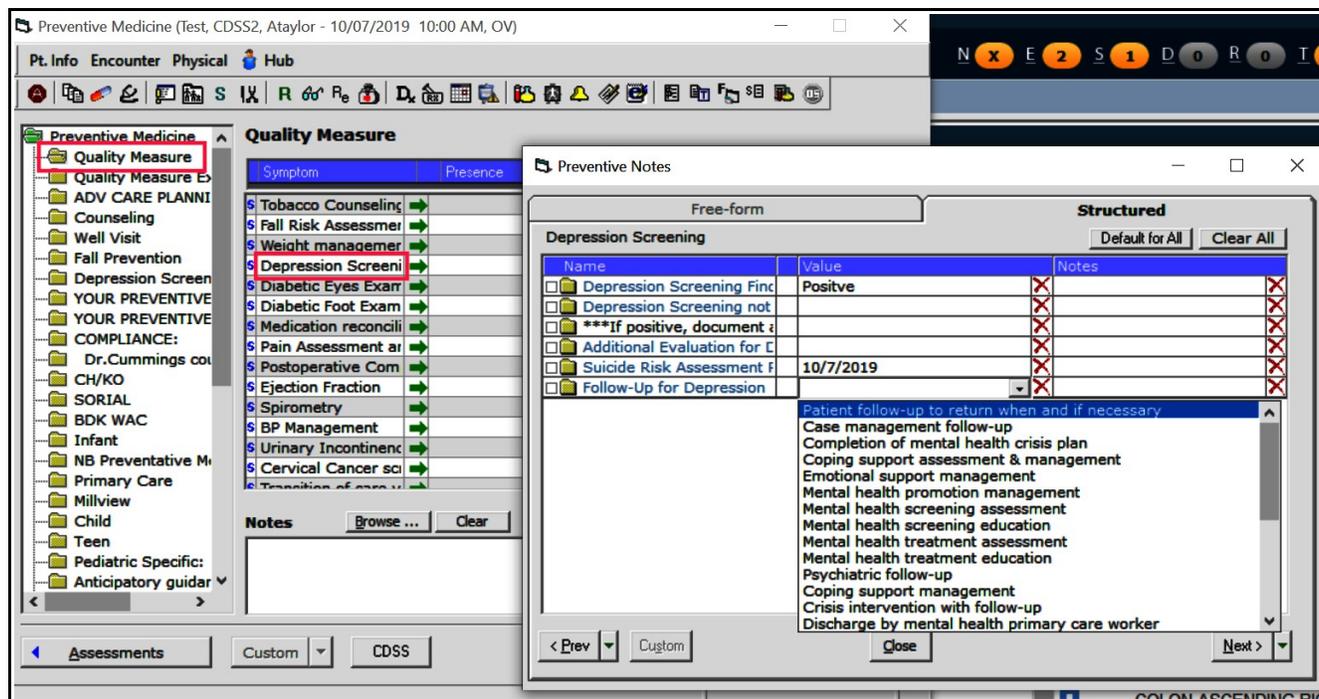
If the PHQ-9 is less than 9 (a score of 0 to 8), no further documentation needs to be done (though further assessment of a patient with a lower PHQ-9 score may be clinically indicated based upon the provider's impression).

The screenshot shows the 'PATIENT HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE (PHQ-9)' smartform. The patient's name is 'CDSS2 Ataylor Test' and the date is '10/07/2019'. The form asks: 'Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems? (Use "x" to indicate your answer)'. The response options are: 'Not at all', 'Several days', 'More than half the days', and 'Nearly every day'. The corresponding scores are 0, 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
	0	1	2	3
1) Little interest or pleasure in doing things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) Feeling tired or having little energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For a PHQ-9 score of 9 or greater, a plan of action needs to be documented in the Quality Measures sub-folder of the Preventive Medicine folder.

Select “Positive” from the first item on the form. Selecting the box next to “Suicide Risk Assessment Performed” enters the current date. I don't like most of the choices in the “Follow-Up for Depression” dropdown, and usually just leave it as “Patient follow-up to return when and if necessary”. I then go back to the progress note and document what I am really doing for the patient – medication, referral for counseling, or nonpharmacological suggestions - and definitely a follow-up visit in whatever time frame I think the symptoms warrant.



I was told in the past that simply prescribing an antidepressant fulfills the quality measure for a positive PHQ-9 – but completing the quality measure form is also suggested.

Steward also has a quality measure for documenting depression remission – which is defined as a PHQ-9 score done at a subsequent visit with a score of < 5. This is not, however, one of the measures for Prima CARE in 2019.

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