

# Pediatric Depression Screening Tool

Name:	Age:
Gender:      Male      Female      Other:	Date:

The Severity Measure for Depression—Child Age 11–17, also known as the PHQ-9 modified for Adolescents (PHQ-A), is a tool used to assess the severity of depression in adolescents. It is an adaptation of the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9), which is commonly used to screen and diagnose depression in adults.

**Instructions:**

How often have you been bothered by each of the following symptoms during the past 7 days? For each symptom, put an “X” in the box beneath the answer that best describes how you have been feeling.

Item	0 Not at all	1 Several days	2 More than half the days	3 Nearly every day
Feeling down, depressed, irritable, or hopeless?				
Little interest or pleasure in doing things?				
Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much?				
Poor appetite, weight loss, or overeating?				
Feeling tired, or having little energy?				
Feeling bad about yourself—or feeling that you are a failure, or that you have let yourself or your family down?				
Trouble concentrating on things like school work, reading, or watching TV?				
Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? Or the opposite—being so fidgety or restless that you were moving around a lot more than usual?				

Item	0 Not at all	1 Several days	2 More than half the days	3 Nearly every day
Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way?				
<b>Total / Partial Raw Score:</b>				
<b>Prorated Total Raw Score</b> (if 1-2 items left unanswered):				
<p><b>Instructions to Clinicians</b> The Severity Measure for Depression—Child Age 11–17 (adapted from PHQ-9 modified for Adolescents [PHQ-A]) assesses the severity of depressive symptoms in children ages 11–17. It is completed by the child and should be reviewed during the clinical interview to contribute to a comprehensive assessment.</p> <p><b>Scoring and Interpretation</b> Sum the raw scores on the 9 items to obtain a total raw score. Interpret the total score using the table below:</p> <p><b>Interpretation Table of Total Raw Score</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>0-4:</b> None</li> <li>• <b>5-9:</b> Mild</li> <li>• <b>10-14:</b> Moderate</li> <li>• <b>15-19:</b> Moderately severe</li> <li>• <b>20-27:</b> Severe</li> </ul> <p><b>Frequency of Use</b> Repeat at regular intervals as clinically indicated to monitor changes in severity. Consistently high scores may warrant further assessment, treatment, and follow-up. Use clinical judgment to guide decisions.</p>				
<b>Signature of Evaluator</b>				
Date:				
<b>Client Consent for Evaluation and Treatment</b>				
I consent to the pediatric depression screening and understand the confidentiality and limits thereof.				
<b>Client's / Guardian's Signature:</b>				
Date:				
<p><b>Adapted from</b> Johnson JG, Harris ES, Spitzer RL, Williams JBW: The Patient Health Questionnaire for Adolescents: Validation of an instrument for the assessment of mental disorders among adolescent primary care patients. J Adolescent Health 30:196–204, 2002</p>				