



Patient Health Questionnaire-2 Instructions for Use

The PHQ-2 includes the first 2 items of the PHQ-9. The stem question is, “Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?” The 2 items are “Little interest or pleasure in doing things” and “Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless.” For each item, the response options are “Not at all,” “Several days,” “More than half the days,” and “Nearly every day,” scored as 0, 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Thus, the PHQ-2 score can range from 0 to 6.² A score of 3 points or more on this version of the PHQ-2 has a sensitivity of 83 percent and a specificity of 92 percent for major depressive episode.¹

Screening with the PHQ-2 is only a first step. Patients who screen positive should be further evaluated with the PHQ-9, other diagnostic instruments, or direct interview to determine whether they meet criteria for a depressive disorder.²

Score interpretation:

<i>PHQ-2 score</i>	<i>Probability of major depressive disorder (%)</i>	<i>Probability of any depressive disorder (%)</i>
1	15.4	36.9
2	21.1	48.3
3	38.4	75.0
4	45.5	81.2
5	56.4	84.6
6	78.6	92.9

Sources:

1. Thibault JM, Steiner RW. Efficient identification of adults with depression and dementia. *Am Fam Physician.* 2004;70:1101–1110
2. Kroenke K, Spitzer RL, Williams JB. The Patient Health Questionnaire-2: validity of a two-item depression screener. *Med Care.* 2003;41:1284–1292



American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. Original document included as part of *Bright Futures Tool and Resource Kit*. Copyright © 2010 American Academy of Pediatrics. All Rights Reserved. The American Academy of Pediatrics does not review or endorse any modifications made to this document and in no event shall the AAP be liable for any such changes.