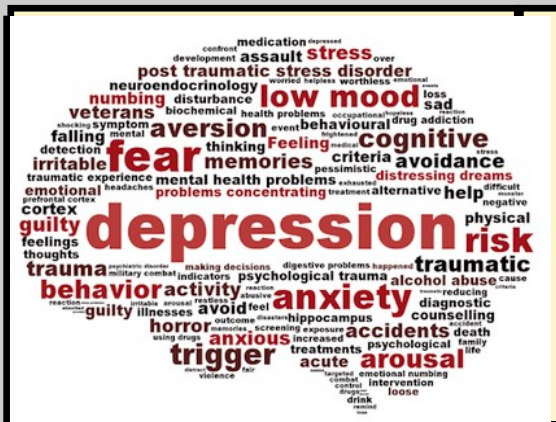
Tips & Tricks Weekly

Depression Measures



Depression screening (PHQ-2 or PHQ-9) must be done annually for patients 12 and older, unless they have a diagnosis of bipolar or major depression.

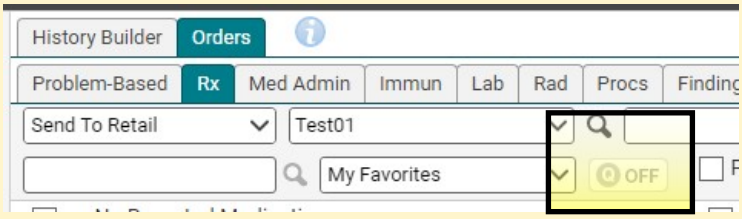
If the patient has a positive screening, a follow-up plan must be documented on the date of the encounter.

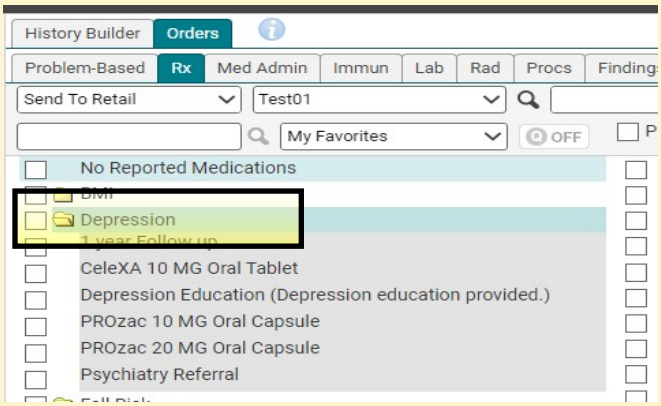
A positive screener is generally considered a score above 5, but this measure relies on the physician's clinical judgement.

To take action or create a follow– up plan on a positive screener, in EHR order the following:

- Additional evaluation (follow-up visit) for depression or positive depression screener
- Referral to a practitioner who is qualified to diagnose and treat depression
- Pharmacological interventions

If your site uses Order Groups, folders have been set up to make ordering easier in EHR. To see if you have access to Order Groups, make sure your Quicklist off.





You will see Depression folders under the Active (problem), Rx, and FU/Ref tabs.

If you do not have access to the Order Groups and are interested in having them added, please contact the EHR team.

Exclusions: Documentation of Hospice Care (Z51.5)

Exception: Impaired Cognitive Ability (R41.89)