



“IMPORTANT MESSAGE”

TO: Primary Care Physician
FROM: Paul Chu, MD, Chief Medical Officer
DATE: June 14, 2017
SUBJECT: **Clinical Depression Screening and Follow Up in Primary Care**

Screening for Clinical Depression is required for all health plan members 12 years and older. Screening for depression and placement into the appropriate care is performed by Primary Care Physicians. Depression screening must be performed in conjunction with and on the same date as an outpatient visit that is being billed or submitted as an encounter. Please submit your encounters (with the relevant depression screening code) within 30 days after Date of Service.

Eligible depression screening codes for submission along with your standard outpatient visit codes are:

Procedure codes for Depression screening	Code Description
G8431	Positive Screen for Clinical Depression Using a Standardized Tool and Follow-up Plan Documented
G8433	Screen clinical depression not documented /patient not eligible
G8510	Negative Screen for Clinical Depression Using a Standardized Tool and not Eligible/Appropriate for Follow-up Plan Documented
G8940	Screening for Clinical Depression Documented Follow up Plan not documented Patient not Eligible/Appropriate

Various ages appropriate Depression Screening Tools may be used. Though many tools are available, the forms noted below are simple to use and well accepted. For Adolescents the PHQ-A tool needs to be used. These are available as downloadable forms on our “Web Portal”.

Tool(Forms)	Scoring	Question Count
PRIME MD-PHQ-2 (Adult)	Combined self-administered patient screener with clinical follow-up question	2
PHQ-A Patient Health Questionnaire Adolescents (12-17 years)	Nine items, each scored 0 to 3	9

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter or eligibility and appropriateness for patients, please feel free to contact Douglas Sullivan, R.N., C.C.M. @ 626 656-0746 Douglas.Sullivan@nmm.cc. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.