



Appendix D: Depression Screening Tools

Depression Screening Tools	Brief Description or Comments
Screening tools for persons with minor cognitive loss or early stage dementia	
S²IGECAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadness • Sleep disturbance • Loss of Interest • Inappropriate or excessive feelings of Guilt • Decreased Energy and increased fatigue • Diminished ability to think or Concentrate • Appetite change • Psychomotor agitation or retardation • Suicidal ideation <p>See <i>BC Guidelines, Major Depressive Disorder in Adults: Diagnosis & Management</i>.</p>
Geriatric Depression Scale (short form)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Associated Document: Geriatric Depression Scale (short form)</i>. • Score Range is 0-15. A score of > 5 points is suggestive of depression and warrants a follow-up interview. Scores > 10 are almost always depression. • Link to downloads of the Geriatric Depression Scale in English and other languages: www.stanford.edu/~yesavage/GDS.html. • Link to scoring information for the Geriatric Depression Scale: www.stanford.edu/~yesavage/GDS.english.short.score.html.
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to <i>BC Guidelines Major Depressive Disorder in Adults: Diagnosis & Management – Associated Document: PHQ-9</i>: www.bcguidelines.ca/pdf/depression_patient_health_questionnaire.pdf. • Score Range is 0-27. A score of > 5 is suggestive of a potential major depressive disorder.
Screening tools for persons with advanced cognitive impairment	
Cornell Assessment Scale for Depression in Dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to informant-based tool: img.medscape.com/pi/emed/ckb/psychiatry/285911-1335300-1356106-1392041.pdf. • Score Range is 0-38. A score > 10 indicates a potential major depressive episode, while a score >18 is definite for major depressive episode.
RAI-2.0 Depression Rating Scale (Outcome Score)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This scale can be used as a clinical screen for depression. • Score Range is 0–14. A score of three or more may indicate a potential or actual problem with depression.

Note: Choose a depression screening tool based on the remaining cognitive abilities of the person to be screened. Any positive screen should be followed up by a medical assessment and appropriate interventions.

Reference (adapted from): Developed by and shared with permission of the Clinical Review Working Group for the Provincial Best Practice Algorithm for Accommodating and Managing Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia www.bcbpsd.ca.