

Quick Guide: PCP Recommended Mental Health Screening Tools

Primary care is often the first and only touchpoint for patients experiencing mental health or substance use concerns. When completing mental health screenings, systems should be in place to ensure connection to treatment options, including mental health specialists and appropriate follow-up.

To view the **Mental Health Services Flyer** with ways to access services, visit: qrco.de/bgh4mU

To connect a member with a CenCal Health navigator to coordinate care for psychotherapy and medication management, use the Behavioral Health Care Coordination Request Form: qrco.de/bgh4mi



Depression Screenings

Medi-Cal reimburses screening adults and children ages 12 and older for depression as an outpatient service only. Approved and validated depression screening tools include:

- **Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ):** If the PHQ-2 is positive for depression, the PHQ-9 or a clinical interview should be administered. There is a PHQ-9 for Adolescents.
- **Beck Depression Inventory (BDI):** The BDI can be used for ages 13 to 80.

Billing Codes (HCPCS Codes)

G8431

Screening for depression is documented as being positive, and a follow-up plan is documented

G9920

Screening for depression is documented as being negative; a follow-up plan is not required

Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment (SABIRT)

Recommended for patients ages 11+ and at least once a year. For this screening, CenCal Health recommends CAGE-AID or a preferred tool (AUDIT-C).

Billing Codes (HCPCS Codes)

H0049

Alcohol and/or drug screening

H0050

Alcohol and/or drug screening w/ brief intervention, per 15 minutes

? For questions or additional support, contact the **CenCal Health Behavioral Health Call Center** at 1-877-814-1861.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Screening

Recommended for all patients and/or parents of younger children. CenCal Health recommends the following tools for screening ACEs, also available at ACEs Aware:

- **For pediatrics (0-19 years):** Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS)
- **For adults (18+):** Adverse Childhood Experience Questionnaire for Adults

Frequency up to 21 years:

Recommended annually and is billable once per year.

Frequency for adult patients 21-64 years: Screening billable only once in adult lifetime.

Billing Codes (HCPCS Codes)

G9919

Screening performed and positive, and provision of recommendations (ACEs score of 4 or greater)

G9920

Screening performed and negative (ACEs score of 0-3)

For ACEs Aware, scan the QR code or visit: qrco.de/bgh4nA



For PEARLS, scan the QR code or visit: qrco.de/bgh4nT



For the ACEs Questionnaire for Adults, scan the QR code or visit: qrco.de/bgh4pN

