

Table 1. Ultra-short screening tests for depression in primary care.

| Year of publication | Author | Screening method | Reference standard | Total sample size | Setting | Finding/Comment |
|------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Single question tests | | | | | | |
| 1997 | Whooley MA <i>et al</i> ⁵² | PrimeMD 1st Question & PrimeMD 2nd Question | DIS | 536 | Community VA outpatients | 8.8% of subjects with depression (6 of 68 subjects) were recognised as being depressed by the healthcare provider |
| 2003 | Lowe <i>et al</i> ⁴⁷ | PHQ-Question 1 & PHQ-Question 2 | SCID (DSMIV) MJ Depression | 310 | Primary care & medical clinics | Recruitment was from medical clinics (70%) and primary care (30%). 68% sample was female with a mean age, 43 years. Four interviewers were blinded to the results of the questionnaire and the physicians' ratings. All four raters attended a special SCID training course. 26% declined participation. |
| 2003 | Osborn <i>et al</i> ⁵⁶ | 'Do you feel sad, depressed or miserable' Always vs often occasionally/no | GDS-15 Cut-Off 5/6 | 13670 | Primary care (Over 75 years) | Formed part of the MRC trial of assessment and management of older people in the community. Data from 53 representative practices. Performance of single items in three variations compared to GDS using four different cut-offs. |
| 2004 | Corson <i>et al</i> ⁴⁸ | 1 question 'Have you been depressed or sad most of the past year?' | PHQ9 (stratified) | 1211 | Primary care | Portland Veterans administration primary care clinics, which include 2 hospital-based and 2 community-based clinics. Mean age 62 years. Interview conducted by telephone. 171 of 1447 declined to participate. |
| 2005 | Arroll B <i>et al</i> ⁵⁴ | Single Help Question 'Is this something with which you would like help?' | CIDI | 936 | Primary care | 19 general practices agreed to participate. The patients then completed the mood module of the composite international diagnostic interview in the waiting room. The research assistant did not look at the responses to the screening questions until the patient had completed the module. The patient showed the GP his or her written responses to the screening and help questions. The GPs could ask any questions. They then completed a form with their opinion on whether the patient was depressed. Of 1094 consecutive patients attending general practice, 1025 agreed to participate (94% response rate) |
| 2006 | Means-Christensen <i>et al</i> ⁵⁹ | 'Did you have a period of 1 week or more when you lost interest in things like work, hobbies, and other things you usually enjoyed?' | CIDI-Auto (v2.1) | 801 | Primary care | Patients completed a paper and pencil screen 'The Anxiety and Depression Detector' which had a single item test for depression that had high sensitivity/specificity during a pilot test. Reference standard with 'phone administered CIDI. The prevalence of depression in the total sample was 39.8% but full results were only reported on 115 individuals. |

GDS = Geriatric Depression Scale. CIDI = Composite International Diagnostic Interview. SCID = Structured Clinical Interview for Depression. PHQ = Patient Health Questionnaire. DIS = Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS). VA = Veterans Administration

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Table 1 continued. ultra-short screening tests for depression in primary care.

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Two or three question tests | | | | | | |
| 1994 | Spitzer RL <i>et al</i> ⁵³ | Prime MD Patient Questionnaire(2 questions) | SCID Depression | 439 | Primary care | Conducted at 4 primary care sites. 7% declined participation. 31 primary care physicians participated. All had a 1–3 hour training session on PRIME-MD. Gold standard based on telephone interview from mental health professional with questions from the SCID |
| 1997 | Whooley MA <i>et al</i> ⁵² | PrimeMD 2item (PHQ2 categorical) | DIS | 536 | Community VA outpatients | 8.8% of subjects with depression (6 of 68 subjects) were recognised as being depressed by the healthcare provider |
| 1998 | Brody <i>et al</i> ⁴⁵ | PrimeMD 2item (PHQ2 categorical) | DSMIV (4 symptoms) | 1000 | Primary care | Gold standard was 4 core symptoms from DSMIV. The mean age of these patients 2469–2475 was 55 years (age range, 18–91 years) 60% were women; 58% were white; 28% were college graduates. |
| 2003 | Arroll B <i>et al</i> ⁵¹ | Positive on 2 of 2 PHQ Questions Positive on 1 of 2 PHQ Questions | CIDI (computer) Major Depression | 421 | Primary care | 15 practices, patients not taking psychotropic drugs, study conducted in 15 practices according to STARD & criteria. 194/670 declined to participate. |
| 2003 | Kroenke <i>et al</i> ⁴⁶ | PHQ2(linear) >1 PHQ2(linear) >2 | Clinician IV Major Depression | 580 | Primary care & medical clinics | 3890 patients, 18 years or older, were invited to participate in the PHQ Primary Care Study. There were 190 who declined to participate, 266 who started but didn't complete the questionnaire. There were 1422 from 5 general internal medicine clinics and 1578 from 3 family practice clinics. |
| 2004 | Corson <i>et al</i> ⁴⁸ | PHQ2(linear) >1 & PHQ2(linear) >2 | PHQ9 >9 (moderate) | 1211 | Community VA outpatients | Portland Veterans administration primary care clinics, which include 2 hospital-based and 2 community-based clinics. Mean age 62 years. Interview conducted by telephone. 171 of 1447 declined to participate. |
| 2004 | Henckel <i>et al</i> ²⁹ | WHO5 2item (1+3) & WHO5 2item (1+4) | CIDI (computer) Major Depression | 431 | Primary care | Within 6 days of their visit patients were contacted by phone and a fully structured standardised psychiatric interview (CIDI) was conducted. The 17 subjects who failed to keep CIDI appointments or refused participation in the interview were excluded. Depression and dysthymia considered as outcomes. |
| 2005 | Lowe <i>et al</i> ⁵⁰ | PHQ2(linear) >2 | SCID for DSMIV (Major Depression) | 520 | Primary care & medical clinics | The cross-sectional study was performed in seven outpatient clinics of Heidelberg Medical Hospital and 12 family practices in Heidelberg. Patients was invited to have the Structured Clinical Interviews for DSM-IV interview on the day of their visit, or within 1 week. The selection method for recruiting the subset of interviewed patients was to ask every third patient, according to fixed selection rates for every site, until the intended quota for this session was achieved. |
| 2005 | Arroll B <i>et al</i> ⁵⁴ | Positive on 1 of 2 PHQ Questions & Positive on 1 of 2 PHQ Questions & Help Question | CIDI (computer) Major Depression | 936 | Primary care | 19 general agreed to participate. The patient then completed the mood module of the composite international diagnostic interview in the waiting room. The research assistant did not look at the responses to the screening questions until the patient had completed the module. The patient showed the GP his or her written responses to the screening and help questions. The GPs could ask any questions. They then completed a form with their opinion on whether the patient was depressed. Of 1094 consecutive patients attending general practice, 1025 agreed to participate (94% response rate;) |