

Quality Provider Program — Primary Care

Working Your Open Gaps List: Maternal Depression Screening

Instructions

STEP 1

Create a current gaps-in-care list:

1. Open your "Gaps-in-Care for Download" report: [QPP Report Hub](#).
2. Apply these filters:
 - **Super clinic:** Choose your clinic.
 - **Measure:** Click on "Maternal Depression Screening 1 (SH_MDS_1); Maternal Depression Screening 2 (SH_MDS_2); and Maternal Depression Screening 3 (SH_MDS_3)"
 - **Status:** Unclick the "Compliant" box; this will filter for only the achievable and noncompliant members.
3. In the dropdown menu on the top right side of the page, change the view from **Member** to **Download**.
4. Follow the instructions on the screen to export the data to Excel.

Refer to [Report Hub Instructions: Basic User](#).

STEP 2

Format your Excel export.

(Refer to [Formatting a Gaps List in Excel](#).)

STEP 3

Review "Tips for Working your Gaps-in-Care List" (beginning on [page 2](#)).

NOTE: Example screens used in this document are for instructional purposes only; the dates that appear are only representative of what a user might see.

Measure Information

Maternal depression screening is critical for the health and well-being of both mother and baby. If untreated, this disorder can impact the mother's ability to care for the child, which may contribute to long-term emotional and behavioral problems. For the mother, postpartum depression can strain family relationships and increase the risk of suicide.¹

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends routinely screening mothers of patients for postpartum depression:²

- With a validated screening tool (e.g., Edinburgh Postpartum Depression Scale or Patient Health Questionnaire)
- At first year well-child visits: the one-, two-, four-, and six-months visits

In addition, the AAP Perinatal Depression policy statement indicates that, "Repeated screening aids in overcoming initial reticence in disclosing depressive symptoms."²

Tips for Working Your Gaps-in-Care List begin on page 2...

Maternal Depression Screening, Continued

Tips for Working Your Gaps-in-Care List

1. Understand the data in your Gap List:

Compliance Date: The date the screening was completed.

Status: Patients are “Achievable” if they are < 1 year old and their parent/caregiver has not been screened. Patients are “Non-compliant” if they are > 1 year old and their parent/caregiver has not been screened. Patients are “Compliant” when SelectHealth has received the claim for the screening before the patient turned 1 year old.

Status Detail: Contains information about compliance, including screening date and submitted code.

Measure	Compliance Date	Status	Status Detail
Maternal Depression Screening 2 (SH_MDS_2)		Achievable	To Be Completed
Maternal Depression Screening 3 (SH_MDS_3)		Non-Compliant	Screening not completed
Maternal Depression Screening 1 (SH_MDS_1)	8/16/2024	Compliant	Recorded screening on Dates: (08/16/24 96161)

Achievable date and Measure Instructions: The child's 1st birthday and the date by which the 3 screenings must occur to receive payment

Achievable Date	Measure Instructions
3/12/2025	Parent needs to have completed screening by 3/12/2025.
3/12/2025	Parent needs to have completed screening by 3/12/2025.
	Parent completed screening.

2. Work the patient list by “Achievable” status. These patients' parents/caregivers are missing one or more screenings. Be sure to:

- Check to see if the “Achievable” patients have an upcoming well-baby appointment scheduled and contact parents of those who do not to get a visit scheduled.
- Work with your team to make sure that the Edinburgh Postpartum Depression Screen (EPDS) or other standardized screening tool is part of your well-baby visit template or pre-visit forms.
- Talk to parents about any barriers to care that they may be encountering (e.g., cost, transportation, remembering to schedule) and provide relevant education and resources.

Continued on page 3...

Maternal Depression Screening, Continued

Access these Quality Provider Program maternal mental health resources:

- [Maternal Mental Health Screening Guide](#) (includes screening algorithm, depression resources for providers, depression resources for patients and parents)
- [Screening Algorithm](#) (standalone)
- [Depression Resources for Providers](#) (standalone)
- [Depression Resources for Patients and Parents](#) (standalone)

References:

1. Carlson K,, Mughal S, Azhar , Siddiqui W. Perinatal Depression. [Updated 2025 Jan 22]. In: *StatPearls* [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2025 Jan. Available from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/nBK519070/>. Accessed May 11, 2025.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics; Croke L, AFP Senior Associate Editor. Perinatal depression: AAP policy statement on recognition and management. *Pediatrics*. January 2019;143(1):e20183259. Available at: <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/issues/2019/1001/p443.html> Accessed May 11, 2025.