

CAROLINA FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC.

PROCEDURE

TITLE: IBH-200.06 Screening & follow up for Depression in Adolescents (11-17) (PHQ-9 Modified)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2017

SECTION: Clinical

REFERENCE POLICY: IBH-200 Evidence-Based Care and Screening

RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OF STAFF: Chief Medical Officer

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE: Medical CIT

REVIEWED: 07/05/2022, 09/02/2025

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure by which Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc. (CFHC, Inc.) Integrated Behavioral Health Clinicians utilize the *Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) Modified for Adolescents*.

II. PROCEDURE

The *PHQ-9 Modified for Adolescents* is a standardized and validated questionnaire to assess depression in patients between the ages of 11 and 17. Each item asks the child to rate the severity of his or her depression symptoms during the past two weeks.

Scoring and Interpretation

The *PHQ-9 Modified for Adolescents* can be administered and scored by a nurse, medical assistant, medical provider, or IBH staff by utilizing the Adolescent PHQ-9 Flowsheet in EPIC.

Each item on the measure is rated on a 4-point scale (0=Not at all; 1=Several days; 2=More than half the days; and 3=Nearly every day). The total score can range from 0 to 27, with higher scores indicating greater severity of depression. The raw scores on the nine items should be summed to obtain a total raw score and should be interpreted using the table below:

Severity of depressive disorder or episode:

0-4 - None

5-9 – Mild Depression

10-14 – Moderate Depression

15-19 – Moderately Severe

20-27 - Severe

The screening tool is considered positive with a score of 9 or greater.

Adolescents with a positive *PHQ-9 Modified for Adolescents* should be further evaluated.

Frequency of Use

The questionnaire is completed at least once annually for screening purposes.