

Depression Self-Rating Test

Nearly 20 million Americans experience depression,¹ but many will never seek treatment. The Depression Self-Rating Test is a simple 16-question quiz that can help identify common symptoms of depression and their severity. Remember—depression is more than just feeling down—it is a real medical condition that can be effectively treated.

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it to your healthcare provider.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Today's Date: _____

Instructions: Please **circle** the one response to each item that best describes you for the past seven days.

1. Falling asleep:

- 0 I never take longer than 30 minutes to fall asleep.
- 1 I take at least 30 minutes to fall asleep, less than half the time.
- 2 I take at least 30 minutes to fall asleep, more than half the time.
- 3 I take more than 60 minutes to fall asleep, more than half the time.

2. Sleep during the night:

- 0 I do not wake up at night.
- 1 I have a restless, light sleep with a few brief awakenings each night.
- 2 I wake up at least once a night, but I go back to sleep easily.
- 3 I awaken more than once a night and stay awake for 20 minutes or more, more than half the time.

3. Waking up too early:

- 0 Most of the time, I awaken no more than 30 minutes before I need to get up.
- 1 More than half the time, I awaken more than 30 minutes before I need to get up.
- 2 I almost always awaken at least one hour or so before I need to, but I go back to sleep eventually.
- 3 I awaken at least one hour before I need to, and can't go back to sleep.

4. Sleeping too much:

- 0 I sleep no longer than 7–8 hours/night, without napping during the day.
- 1 I sleep no longer than 10 hours in a 24-hour period including naps.
- 2 I sleep no longer than 12 hours in a 24-hour period including naps.
- 3 I sleep longer than 12 hours in a 24-hour period including naps.

5. Feeling sad:

- 0 I do not feel sad.
- 1 I feel sad less than half the time.
- 2 I feel sad more than half the time.
- 3 I feel sad nearly all of the time.

6. Decreased appetite:

- 0 There is no change in my usual appetite.
- 1 I eat somewhat less often or lesser amounts of food than usual.
- 2 I eat much less than usual and only with personal effort.
- 3 I rarely eat within a 24-hour period, and only with extreme personal effort or when others persuade me to eat.

7. Increased appetite:

- 0 There is no change from my usual appetite.
- 1 I feel a need to eat more frequently than usual.
- 2 I regularly eat more often and/or greater amounts of food than usual.
- 3 I feel driven to overeat both at mealtime and between meals.

8. Decreased weight (within the last two weeks):

- 0 I have not had a change in my weight.
- 1 I feel as if I've had a slight weight loss.
- 2 I have lost 2 pounds or more.
- 3 I have lost 5 pounds or more.

9. Increased weight (within the last two weeks):

- 0 I have not had a change in my weight.
- 1 I feel as if I've had a slight weight gain.
- 2 I have gained 2 pounds or more.
- 3 I have gained 5 pounds or more.

10. Concentration/Decision making:

- 0 There is no change in my usual capacity to concentrate or make decisions.
- 1 I occasionally feel indecisive or find that my attention wanders.
- 2 Most of the time, I struggle to focus my attention or to make decisions.
- 3 I cannot concentrate well enough to read or cannot make even minor decisions.

11. View of myself:

- 0 I see myself as equally worthwhile and deserving as other people.
- 1 I am more self-blaming than usual.
- 2 I largely believe that I cause problems for others.
- 3 I think almost constantly about major and minor defects in myself.

12. Thoughts of death or suicide:

- 0 I do not think of suicide or death.
- 1 I feel that life is empty or wonder if it's worth living.
- 2 I think of suicide or death several times a week for several minutes.
- 3 I think of suicide or death several times a day in some detail, or I have made specific plans for suicide or have actually tried to take my life.

13. General interest:

- 0 There is no change from usual in how interested I am in other people or activities.
- 1 I notice that I am less interested in people or activities.

- 2 I find I have interest in only one or two of my formerly pursued activities.
- 3 I have virtually no interest in formerly pursued activities.

14. Energy level:

- 0 There is no change in my usual level of energy.
- 1 I get tired more easily than usual.
- 2 I have to make a big effort to start or finish my usual daily activities (for example: shopping, homework, cooking, or going to work).
- 3 I really cannot carry out most of my usual daily activities because I just don't have the energy.

15. Feeling slowed down:

- 0 I think, speak, and move at my usual rate of speed.
- 1 I find that my thinking is slowed down or my voice sounds dull or flat.
- 2 It takes me several seconds to respond to most questions, and I'm sure my thinking is slowed.
- 3 I am often unable to respond to questions without extreme effort.

16. Feeling restless:

- 0 I do not feel restless.
- 1 I'm often fidgety, wringing my hands, or need to shift how I am sitting.
- 2 I have impulses to move about and am quite restless.
- 3 At times, I am unable to stay seated and need to pace around.

This section is to be completed by your doctor.

To Score:

- Enter the highest score on any 1 of the 4 sleep items (1-4) _____
- Item 5 _____
- Enter the highest score on any 1 appetite/weight item (6-9) _____
- Item 10 _____
- Item 11 _____
- Item 12 _____
- Item 13 _____
- Item 14 _____
- Enter the highest score on either of the 2 psychomotor items (15 and 16) _____

TOTAL SCORE (Range 0-27) _____

Scoring Criteria: Normal 0-5 Mild 6-10 Moderate 11-15 Severe 16-20 Very Severe 21+

NOTE: The above cutoff points are based largely on clinical judgment rather than on empirical data.

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References: 1. National Institute of Mental Health website. Depression Research at the National Institute of Mental Health Fact Sheet.

Available at: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/depresfact.cfm>. Accessed November 28, 2002.