

PHQ-9 Follow-up Questions for Patients Scoring 1-3 on Question #9

The final assessment of whether immediate action is needed is up to licensed professionals within their scope of practice.

1: Do you feel like life isn't worth living?

Yes = Go to Follow-up Question #2

No = Write down what patient was thinking when they answered Question #9.

A warm handoff would be useful but no urgent need for immediate assessment if behavioral health staff not available for warm handoff.

2: Do you have thoughts about harming yourself?

Yes = Go to Follow-up Question #3

No = Write patient's comments

A warm handoff is still best but no need for Immediate behavioral health staff assessment if not available.

3: Do you have plans for how you would harm yourself?

Yes = Go to Follow-up Questions 4 and 5

4: Do you plan to act on this soon?

5: Do you have the means to harm yourself?

IMPORTANT: Yes on items 3, 4, or 5 should be reported to behavioral health staff before patient leaves the clinic so a decision can be made regarding actions to take.