

HVSA Aligned Measure Overview: Depression Screening



Caregiver depression is a serious and widespread condition that not only affects the caregiver, but may have a lasting, detrimental impact on their child's health. Postpartum depression may lead to child abuse and neglect, discontinuation of breastfeeding, family dysfunction and adversely affects early brain development. ([Earls, 2010](#)) If the child is in an environment of maternal depression, they are at risk for attachment issues, failure to thrive, abuse/neglect, and, ultimately, developmental delay. ([Earls, 2010](#)). Caregiver depression screening and treatment is an important tool to protect the child from the potential adverse physical and developmental effects of caregiver depression.

Definition: Percent of primary caregivers enrolled in home visiting who are screened for depression using a validated tool within 3 months of enrollment (for those not enrolled prenatally) or 3 months of delivery (for those enrolled prenatally).

What to collect:	Complete a depression screening for primary caregivers using the PHQ-9 form.
For whom:	Primary caregivers who have been enrolled for at least 3 months.
When to ask:	Required one-time: Complete a PHQ-9 depression screening within 3 months of delivery if enrolled pregnant or 3 months of enrollment if enrolled postnatally. Best practice (but not tracked for performance measure): Repeat PHQ-9 if previous positive screens, or nearing 10.

Measure Production Details

Calculate: If the total PHQ-9 score is 10 or higher or the caregiver answered something other than "not at all" to question 9, the depression screening is positive, and a referral is needed. The referral is considered complete when the caregiver receives one or more service contacts.

Required Data Elements:

PHQ-9 Date

HVSA Aligned Measure Overview: Anxiety Screening

New MIECHV Measure Added FFY27

Caregiver anxiety is a condition characterized by apprehension and tension in which individuals anticipate danger or catastrophe (American Psychological Association, 2026). Caregiver screening and treatment is an important tool to protect the child from the potential adverse physical and developmental effects of caregiver anxiety.

Definition: Percent of primary caregivers enrolled in home visiting who are screened for anxiety using a validated tool within 3 months of enrollment (for those not enrolled prenatally) or 3 months of delivery (for those enrolled prenatally).

What to collect:	Complete an anxiety screening for primary caregivers using the GAD-7 form.
For whom:	Primary caregivers who have been enrolled for at least 3 months.
When to ask:	Required one-time: Complete a GAD-7 anxiety screening within 3 months of delivery if enrolled pregnant or 3 months of enrollment if enrolled postnatally. Optional: best practice would be to repeat screening after a positive screening, and as need or concern is determined by home visitor.

Measure Production Details

Calculate: If the total GAD-7 score is 10 or higher, the anxiety screening is positive, and a referral is needed. A referral may be deemed necessary or helpful with a score under 10 as the home visitor determines is appropriate, while this is best practice this will not be calculated in the performance measure positively or negatively.

The referral is considered complete when the caregiver receives services or care for anxiety.

Required Data Elements:

GAD-7 Date