



Charlotte AHEC Behavioral Health Integrated Care Curriculum Project

Suicide Risk Screener

What is the MDQ?

The Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ) is a brief, self-report screening instrument that can be used to identify patients in primary care settings most likely to have bipolar disorder.

Link(s) to Screener(s)

You can access the MDQ here [MECH \(ohsu.edu\)](https://mech.ohsu.edu)

How to use it / Who should administer

The questionnaire takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Patients check the yes or no boxes in response to the questions. The last question pertains to the patient's level of functional impairment. The physician, nurse, or medical staff assistant then scores the completed questionnaire.

How to interpret / Next steps

Further medical assessment for bipolar disorder is warranted if:

Patient answers yes to 7 or more of the questions on the screener, AND

Answers yes to question 2, AND

Answers "moderate problem" or "serious problem" to question 3

If you identify that someone has bipolar disorder through further clinical interview, this is a helpful decision-making tool for treatment options.

Source

Hirschfeld R, Williams J, Spitzer RL, et al. Development and validation of a screening instrument for bipolar spectrum disorder: the Mood Disorder Questionnaire. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2000;157:1873-1875.