

# Screening Tool: Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (CSDD)

Scoring System: a = unable to evaluate  
0 = absent  
1 = mild or intermittent  
2 = severe

Ratings should be based on symptoms and signs occurring during the week prior to interview. No score should be given if symptoms result from physical disability or illness.

## A. Mood-Related Signs

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- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Anxiety<br>anxious expression, ruminations, worrying | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Sadness<br>sad expression, sad voice, tearfulness    | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Lack of reactivity to pleasant events                | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 4. Irritability<br>easily annoyed, short-tempered       | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |

## B. Behavioral Disturbance

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- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Agitation<br>restlessness, handwringing, hairpulling   | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Retardation<br>slow movements, slow speech, slow reactions   | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Multiple physical complaints<br>(score 0 if GI symptoms only)  | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 4. Loss of interest<br>less involved in usual activities<br>(score only if change occurred acutely, i.e., in less than 1 month) | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |

## C. Physical Signs

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- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Appetite loss<br>eating less than usual  | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Weight loss<br>score 2 if greater than 5 lb. in one month  | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Lack of energy<br>fatigues easily, unable to sustain activities<br>(score only if change occurred acutely, i.e., in less than 1 month) | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |

*continued on reverse* →

## D. Cyclic Functions

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|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Diurnal variation of mood<br>symptoms worse in the morning        | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Difficulty falling asleep<br>later than usual for this individual | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Multiple awakenings during sleep                                  | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 4. Early-morning awakening<br>earlier than usual for this individual | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |

## E. Ideational Disturbance

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- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Suicide<br>feels life is not worth living, has suicidal wishes or makes<br>suicide attempt | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Poor self-esteem<br>self-blame, self-deprecation, feelings of failure                      | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Pessimism<br>anticipation of the worst   | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 4. Mood-congruent delusions<br>delusions of poverty, illness or loss                          | a | 0 | 1 | 2 |

## Scoring:

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- A score >10 probably major depressive episode
- A score >18 definite major depressive episode