

CASE DEFINITION FOR EARLY-ONSET MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

Report any child aged 5 to 12 years of age inclusively, seen in the previous month, with newly diagnosed early-onset major depressive episode, including children with unipolar mood disturbances sufficient to cause a disruption to social, family and/or academic functioning.

“Major depressive episode” is defined in the DSM-IV-TR as:

1) Depressed or irritable mood, most of the day, nearly every day,

OR

2) Markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, or almost all, activities most of the day,

which is either newly present or has clearly worsened compared with the child’s pre-episode status.

AND

At least **four** of the following seven symptoms that are present during the same two-week period as either (1) **or** (2) above. These symptoms occur daily or near daily and represent a distinct change from previous functioning.

1) Significant weight change, failure to make expected weight gains, **or** significant appetite change.

2) Insomnia (difficulty falling asleep, night-waking or waking too early) **or** hypersomnia.

3) Psychomotor agitation **or** retardation: observable by others and does not represent subjective feelings.

4) Fatigue **or** loss of energy.

5) Feelings of worthlessness **or** excessive or inappropriate guilt (not merely guilt about being sick).

6) Diminished ability to think or concentrate, **or** indecisiveness.

7) Recurrent thoughts of death, recurrent suicidal ideation, **or** a suicide attempt.

AND

Impairment in social functioning (social withdrawal, family or peer conflicts) or academic functioning (school refusal, decreased school performance), which is either *newly present or worsened* compared with pre-episode status.

Exclusion criteria

1) Symptoms due to the direct physiological effects of a substance or a general medical condition.

2) Symptoms occurring exclusively during acute bereavement period (within two months after the loss of a loved one).

Note: this exclusion does not apply to palliative care patients.

3) A previous diagnosis of a manic episode or bipolar disorder.