

Special Indicators for Children & Adolescents

Major Depression – Code 296.xx

NOTE: Please see the *Mood Disorders: Major Depression Diagnostic Tool for APA DSM diagnostic criteria*, as this diagnostic tool is meant to provide additional indicators specific to children and adolescent pertaining to the Major Depression diagnosis.

Name:

DOB:

ID#

APA Diagnostic Criteria

Pertaining to Part A of the DSM Major Depression criteria, " Five (or more) of the symptoms have been present during the same 2 week period . . .," these elements pertain to children:

- (1) Irritable mood, somatic complaints, and social withdrawal.
- (2) Failure to make expected weight gains.

Also consider Major Depressive Episodes occur more frequently in conjunction with other disorders for both children and adolescents, especially Disruptive Behavior Disorders, Attention-Deficit Disorders, and Anxiety disorders, than they do in isolation. For adolescents, Major Depressive Episodes are also associated with Substance-Related Disorders and Eating Disorders.

Age Specific Indicators

Children age 5 years and younger:

- (1) Sleep disturbance.
- (2) Somatic complaints such as headaches, stomachaches or muscle aches.
- (3) Outbursts of shouting, crying or unexplained irritability.
- (4) Low self-esteem &/or guilt; persistent sadness.
- (5) Low energy level.
- (6) Play themes involving death.

Children 6 to 11 years of age:

- (1) Declining performance in school.
- (2) Talk of efforts to run away from home.
- (3) Lack of interest in playing with friends.
- (4) Increased irritability, anger or hostility.
- (5) Low self-esteem and/or guilt; persistent sadness.
- (6) Low energy level; hopelessness.
- (7) Somatic complaints such as headaches, stomachaches or muscle aches.
- (8) Sleep disturbance.
- (9) Play themes involving death; self-destructive behavior.

Adolescents 12 to 17 years of age:

- (1) Difficulty with relationships.
- (2) Reckless behavior.
- (3) Increased irritability, anger or hostility.
- (4) Extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure.
- (5) Fear of death.
- (6) Alcohol or other substance abuse.
- (7) Frequent absences from school or poor performance in school.
- (8) Low self-esteem.
- (9) Low energy level; hopelessness or worthlessness.
- (10) Thoughts or expressions of suicide or self-destructive behavior.

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Clinician:

Date:

Signature: