



Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)–Short Form

<https://web.stanford.edu/~yesavage/GDS.html>

Resource summary: The GDS–Short Form is one of the most popular depression screeners for older adults. The version of the GDS that should be given to clients is shown first below, followed by the scoring version. Clients with a GDS score of 6 or greater need further assessment and may need treatment for major depressive disorder (MDD).¹⁴⁷² Clients with a GDS score below 6 should be screened again in 1 month if symptoms of depression are still present.¹⁴⁷³ If a client’s depressive symptoms are no longer present in 1 month, give the depression screener again in 6 months.¹⁴⁷⁴

Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)–Short Form

Client Version

Client’s Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Circle the best answer for how you felt over the past week.

1.	Are you basically satisfied with your life?	Yes	No
2.	Have you dropped many of your activities and interests?	Yes	No
3.	Do you feel that your life is empty?	Yes	No
4.	Do you often get bored?	Yes	No
5.	Are you in good spirits most of the time?	Yes	No
6.	Are you afraid that something bad is going to happen to you?	Yes	No
7.	Do you feel happy most of the time?	Yes	No
8.	Do you often feel helpless?	Yes	No
9.	Do you prefer staying at home, rather than going out and doing new things?	Yes	No
10.	Do you feel you have more problems with memory than most people?	Yes	No
11.	Do you think it is wonderful to be alive now?	Yes	No
12.	Do you feel pretty worthless the way you are now?	Yes	No
13.	Do you feel full of energy?	Yes	No
14.	Do you feel that your situation is hopeless?	Yes	No
15.	Do you think that most people are better off than you are?	Yes	No

Scoring Version

Client’s Name: _____

Date: _____

Scoring: Count boldface responses for a total score. A score of 0–5 is normal. A score of 6 or above suggests depression.

Instructions: Circle the best answer for how you felt over the past week.

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14. Do you feel that your situation is hopeless?	Yes	No
15. Do you think that most people are better off than you are?	Yes	No

The Client Version and Scoring Version of the GDS–Short Form were both adapted from material in the public domain.¹⁴⁷⁵