

Appendix 19 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7) Scale

The GAD-7 is a screening test for General Anxiety Disorder that asks you 7 questions.

Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?	Not at all Sure	Several days	Over half the days	Nearly every day
1. Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge?	0	1	2	3
2. Not being able to stop or control worrying	0	1	2	3
3. Worrying too much about different things	0	1	2	3
4. Trouble relaxing	0	1	2	3
5. Being so restless that it's hard to sit still	0	1	2	3
6. Becoming easily annoyed or irritable	0	1	2	3
7. Feeling afraid as if something awful might happen	0	1	2	3
Add the score for each column				
Total Score (add your column scores)				

If you checked off any problems, how difficult have these made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?

Not difficult at all _____

Somewhat difficult _____

Very difficult _____

Extremely difficult _____

Scoring:

15	Severe
10	Moderate
5	Mild
0	None

When used as a screening tool, further evaluation is recommended when the score is 10 or greater. Using the threshold score of 10, the GAD-7 has a sensitivity of 89% and a specificity of 82% for GAD. It is moderately good at screening three other common anxiety disorders - panic disorder (sensitivity 74% , specificity 81%), social anxiety disorder (sensitivity 72% , specificity 80%) and post-traumatic stress disorder (sensitivity 66% , specificity 81%).

Source: Spitzer RL, Kroenke K, Williams JBW, Lowe B. A brief measure for assessing generalized anxiety disorder. Arch Intern Med. 2006;166:1092-1097. The copyright is held by Pfizer Inc., but the questionnaire is free to use.