

# Scoring for the SMFQ

## (Short Mood and Feelings Questionnaire)

The SMFQ should not be used to make a definitive diagnosis of depression. It has usefulness as a screening tool for situations where depression is suspected, and as an aide toward following a child's symptom severity and treatment response over time.

Scoring:

Assign a numerical value to each answer as follows:

NOT TRUE= 0

SOMETIMES=1

TRUE=2

Add up the assigned values for all 13 questions. Record the total score.

A total score on the child version of the SMFQ of 8 is considered significant.

(Sensitivity of 60% and specificity of 85% for major depression at a cut off score of 8 or higher. Source is Angold A, Costello EJ, Messer SC. "Development of a short questionnaire for use in epidemiological studies of depression in children and adolescents." *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research* (1995), 5:237-249)

Sensitivity/specificity statistics of the parent version is not reported in the literature. If your patient does not complete the child version of SMFQ, repeated administration of the parent version over time could be useful instead for symptom tracking.

Angold, A., & Costello, E.J. (1987). *Mood and Feelings Questionnaire (MFQ)*. Durham, Developmental Epidemiology Program, Duke University.

Angold, A., Costello, E.J., Messer, S.C., Pickles, A., Winder, F., & Silver, D. (1995). Development of a short questionnaire for use in epidemiological studies of depression in children and adolescents. *International Journal of methods in Psychiatric Research* 5, 237-249.