

Speak Up™ For Your Mental Health

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Depression and other mental health issues are common, and like physical illnesses they need to be treated.

Mental health issues can affect your thinking, feelings, mood, how you relate to others, and even how you function throughout the day. Depression is a serious condition; it is more than just feeling sad or blue, but sadness can be a symptom.



Know the signs and symptoms

For adults, signs and symptoms of a mental health issue can include:

- Feeling sad, down, irritable, nervous, or anxious.
- Excessive worry or fear.
- Loss of interest or pleasure in almost all activities.
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits, as well as sexual drive.
- Low energy or feeling tired.
- Withdrawing from family, friends, or social activities.
- Abuse of alcohol or drugs.
- Difficulty thinking, learning, or making decisions.
- Extreme mood changes.
- Intense fear of weight gain or concern with appearance.
- Experiencing delusions or hallucinations.
- Thoughts of death, suicide, or other self-harm.

Children can have different signs or symptoms, such as:

- Nightmares
- Aggression
- Temper tantrums
- Misbehaving or disobeying
- Changes in performance at school



Talk to someone

Speaking with family, friends, or someone you trust can be a great starting point. They may be able to help you contact a provider who can help. You also can reach out to a:

- Physician
- Counselor
- Psychologist
- Social worker
- Therapist



Be active in your care

Being informed will help ensure you get the treatment that works best for you. Be sure to ask:

- What types of treatment are available?
- Are outpatient, inpatient, or telehealth services available?
- Which treatment type best suits my concerns and ability to follow the care plan?
- What types of medication are involved, if any?
- How frequently do I need to take this medication?
- Are there any side-effects?
- What should I avoid doing or taking while on this medication?
- Will the dosage need to be adjusted over time?

The goal of Speak Up™ is to help patients and their advocates become active in their care.

Speak Up™ materials are intended for the public and have been put into a simplified (i.e., easy-to-read) format to reach a wider audience. They are not meant to be comprehensive statements of standards interpretation or other accreditation requirements, nor are they intended to represent evidence-based clinical practices or clinical practice guidelines. Thus, care should be exercised in using the content of Speak Up™ materials. Speak Up™ materials are available to all health care organizations; their use does not indicate that an organization is accredited by The Joint Commission.