

12 October 2009

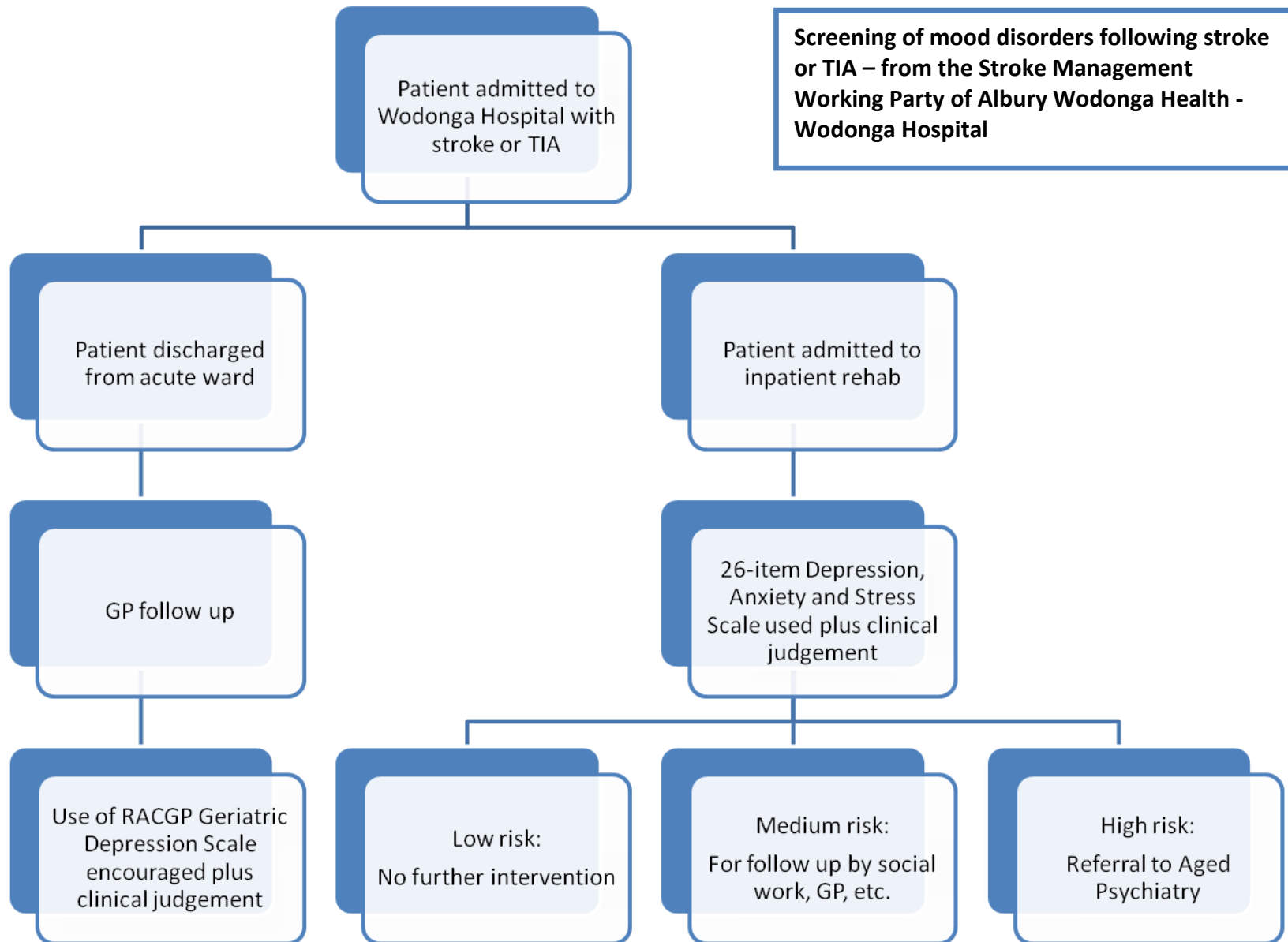
Dear General Practitioners,

The Stroke Management Working Party at Albury Wodonga Health - Wodonga Hospital is attempting to highlight the importance of screening for mood disorders among patients post-stroke or TIA. This is to enable further assessment and management of mood disorders post-stroke or TIA to occur as appropriate.

However, only a minority of patients would stay in hospital long enough for this to be appropriately done in hospital (i.e. patients referred to our inpatient rehabilitation program). For patients discharged from the acute ward, we believe this is best done by the patient's GP on follow-up, using the RACGP Geriatric Depression Scale.

The proposed pathway to screening for mood disorders post-stroke or TIA is on the next page. We are looking at incorporating this into the hospital's draft Stroke and TIA Management Procedure. On the subsequent page is a template for the Geriatric Depression Scale with references for its use.

For more information about the work of the Wodonga Hospital Stroke Management Working Party, please feel free to contact Dr Ka Chun Tse, Quality and Risk Program Manager, Albury Wodonga Health – Wodonga Hospital at KaChun.Tse@wrhs.org.au or on (02) 6051 7461.



GERIATRIC DEPRESSION SCALE (GDS) QUESTIONNAIRE

Patient Identification Label / Details

GDS QUESTIONNAIRE

		Please Tick ✓
1. Are you basically satisfied with your life?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you dropped many of your activities and interests?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you feel that your life is empty?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you often get bored?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are you in good spirits most of the time?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are you afraid that something bad is going to happen to you?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you feel happy most of the time?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you often feel helpless?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you prefer to stay at home, rather than going out and doing things?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you feel you have more problems with memory than most?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you think it is wonderful to be alive now?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Do you feel pretty worthless the way you are now?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13. Do you feel full of energy?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
14. Do you feel that your situation is hopeless?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Do you think that most people are better off than you?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL SCORE		
Staff Name: Signature: Designation: Date: / /		

SOURCE:

1. Shiek JI, Yesavage JA. *Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS): Recent Evidence and Development of a Shorter Version*. In: Brink TL, Editor. *Clinical Gerontology: A Guide to Assessment and Intervention*. New York: Haworth Press, 1986.
2. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). *Medical Care of Older Persons in Residential Aged Care*, 4th edition. Melbourne: RACGP, 2006.