
HAMILTON DEPRESSION RATING SCALE (HAM-D)

Instructions for the Clinician:

The Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D) has proven useful for many years as a way of determining a patient's level of depression before, during, and after treatment. It should be administered by a clinician experienced in working with psychiatric patients .

Although the HAM-D form lists 21 items, the scoring is based on the first 17. It generally takes 15-20 minutes to complete the interview and score the results. Eight items are scored on a 5-point scale, ranging from 0 = not present to 4 = severe. Nine are scored from 0-2.

Since its development in 1960 by Dr. Max.Hamilton of the University of Leeds, England, the scale has been widely used in clinical practice and become a standard in pharmaceutical trials.

HAM-D Scoring Instructions:

Sum the scores from the first 17 items.

0-7 = Normal

8-13 = Mild Depression

14-18 = Moderate Depression

19-22 = Severe Depression

≥ 23 = Very Severe Depression