

Web-based mental health screening feasible, acceptable

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(HealthDay)—For patients in general hospital settings, a routine web-based mental health screening is feasible and acceptable, according to a study published in *General Hospital Psychiatry*.

Lauren Rayner, Ph.D., from King's College London, and colleagues investigated the feasibility and acceptability of routine web-based [screening](#) in general hospital settings. Patients completed a web-based questionnaire comprising patient-reported mental and physical conditions while waiting for their appointment in six specialties (rheumatology, limb reconstruction, hepatitis C, psoriasis, adult congenital heart disease [ACHD], and chronic pain) across three general hospitals in London.

The researchers found that the proportion of patients who completed the questionnaires (feasibility) varied from 40.1 to 98.2 percent across

specialties. Acceptability was quantified by a low decline rate, ranging from 0.6 to 9.7 percent, and a minority of patients requiring assistance (11.7 to 40.4 percent). There was considerable variation in the prevalence of probable depression, from 60.9 percent in [chronic pain](#) to 6.6 percent in ACHD. For probable anxiety, the prevalence ranged from 25.1 percent in rheumatology to 11.4 percent in ACHD.

"Web-based screening is acceptable to patients and can be effectively embedded in routine practice," the authors write. "General hospital [patients](#) are at increased risk of common mental disorders, and [routine screening](#) may help identify need, inform care, and monitor outcomes."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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