

Scoring the MGD TRD scale is dependent on having information regarding the patient's treatments during this current episode. In BRIGHtMIND, this is established through a combination of interview with the patient and examination of primary and secondary case notes. Patients are interviewed using timeline follow back techniques to identify the current episode of depression that started. However, the MGH TRD scores are susceptible to error due to mis-remembered details and inadequate, inaccurate, or inaccessible case notes. Rather than focusing on the specific MGH TRD score, patients in BRIGHtMIND are allocated to three categories of degree of treatment resistance: low, medium, and high. These are defined on the basis of data collected in a previous study of patients with TRD, the ADD study (McAllister-Williams et al. 2016), by scores of 2-3, 4-5, and ≥ 6.5 respectively. If there is any concern that there is incomplete data or missing treatments, then a patient is allocated to the high resistance group.

The specific guidance on using the MGH TRD scoring system in BRIGHtMIND is as follows:

1. The scale assesses the degree of treatment resistance in the CURRENT EPISODE. For some patients with long histories of depression it can be difficult to determine the beginning of the current episode. Count a new episode of depression from the end of any period of substantial improvement in mood for a minimum of 2 months.
2. Confirm if ANY antidepressants have been taken (not just prescribed) in the current episode. If not, then the patient is excluded.
3. If the participant has taken any antidepressants in the current episode then collect information regarding WHAT has been taken (all psychotropics), at what DOSE and for how LONG at the minimum dose or greater. Then, using supplementary table 1:
 - a. in column A, tick an antidepressant the patient has taken at the minimum dose for at least 6 weeks during THIS episode of depression.
 - b. for antidepressants ticked in column A, put another tick in column B if the treatment was continued for at least 10 weeks.
 - c. tick column C if the patient has taken the drug at a dose equal to or greater than the maximum dosage listed for that medication. (*There is no extra score for doses above the maximum*)
 - d. If the patient has been prescribed any of the drugs listed here (taken for at least 6 weeks) during the same time period to boost the antidepressant effect, write the name in column D.
 - i. **NB** – if an antidepressant combination is used, then only score for one of these with the second antidepressant being the augmentation agent. For example, if a patient on venlafaxine has mirtazapine added, put a tick in the venlafaxine row and write 'mirtazapine' in Column D. Don't tick the Mirtazapine row (unless this was also used in monotherapy).
 - ii. **NB** – augmentation agents should in theory be used at minimum effective doses. However, there is a lack of consensus as to what these should be. In any doubt, seek a view of the local Principal Investigators or Chief Investigator.