

This tool is intended to help you think about when, how and with whom you might wish to discuss your illness. When it comes to sharing about depression, there are no right or wrong approaches. But taking time to consider the benefits and costs that might come with sharing can help you feel more confident about your decisions.

When you are considering whether or not to talk to a family member, friend or coworker about your depression, use the space below to list the benefits and costs (“pros” and “cons”) of sharing. Make a separate list for each person you are thinking about. Remember that no issue is too small to put on your list – if it’s important to you, it belongs on the list.

Once you’ve completed your list, you may find it helpful to rank your statements in order of importance by placing a number (#1 being most important) next to each.

I am considering sharing details about my depression with my boss.

If I choose to share, I may face the following positive benefits and/or negative consequences:

Rank	Possible benefit of sharing (+)
5	I don't like keeping secrets
1	I may need to leave work early once a week for appointments
2	I'm going to need to cut out overtime

Rank	Possible cost of sharing (-)
3	She may lose confidence in me
6	She may tell her boss
4	I'll feel like she's always watching to see how I'm doing

Based on the analysis above, I have decided:

- To share
- Not to share
- To delay my decision for now, and revisit at a later date.

For more information:

- University of Michigan Depression Center
- 1-800-475-MICH or 734-936-4400
- <http://www.depressioncenter.org/toolkit>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Patient Education by [Michigan Medicine](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#). Last Revised 01/2018