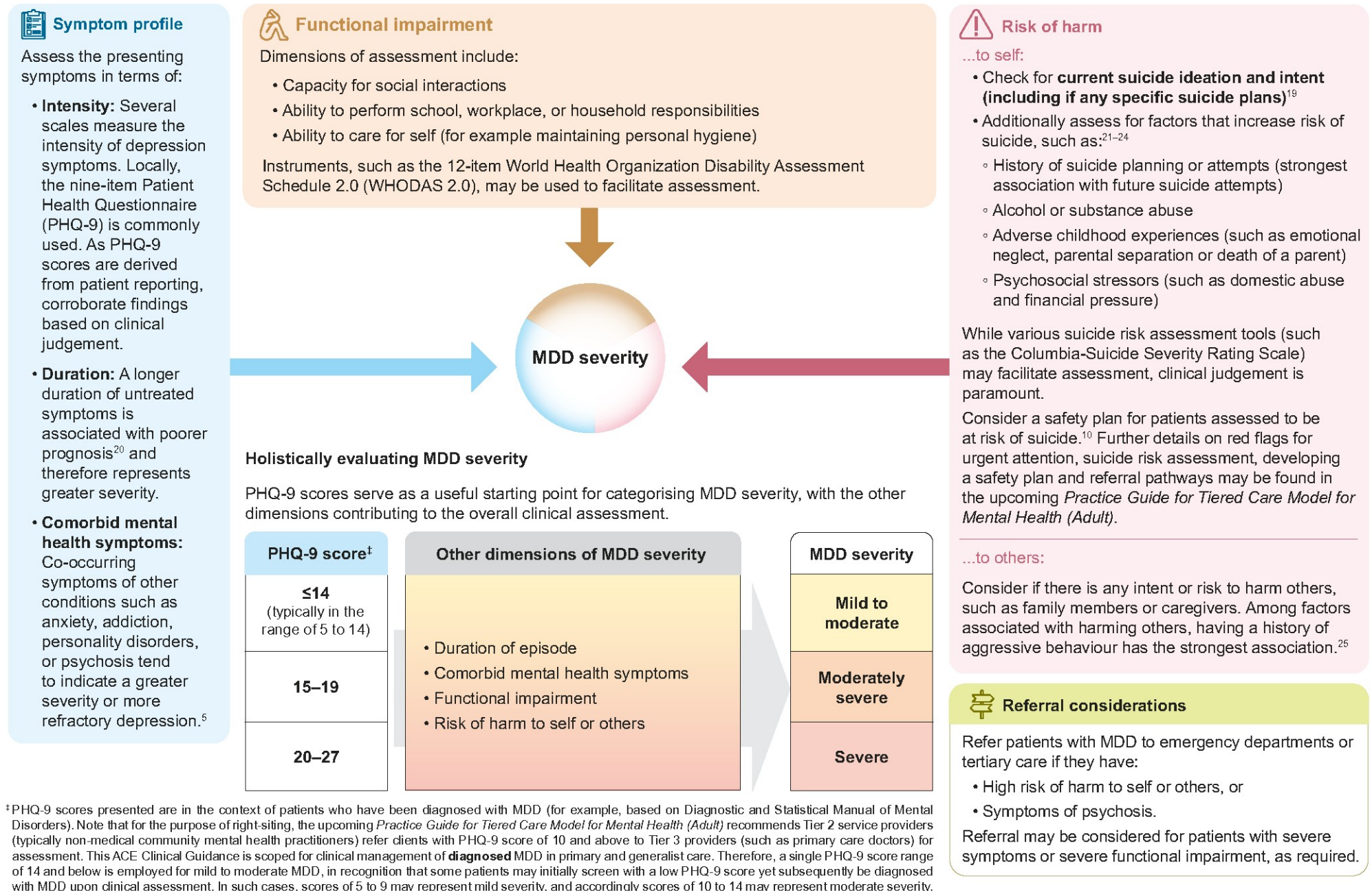


Figure 3a. Evaluation of MDD severity (to inform management) is based on symptom profile, functional impairment, and risk of harm (to self or others)



[†]PHQ-9 scores presented are in the context of patients who have been diagnosed with MDD (for example, based on Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). Note that for the purpose of right-siting, the upcoming *Practice Guide for Tiered Care Model for Mental Health (Adult)* recommends Tier 2 service providers (typically non-medical community mental health practitioners) refer clients with PHQ-9 score of 10 and above to Tier 3 providers (such as primary care doctors) for assessment. This ACE Clinical Guidance is scoped for clinical management of **diagnosed** MDD in primary and generalist care. Therefore, a single PHQ-9 score range of 14 and below is employed for mild to moderate MDD, in recognition that some patients may initially screen with a low PHQ-9 score yet subsequently be diagnosed with MDD upon clinical assessment. In such cases, scores of 5 to 9 may represent mild severity, and accordingly scores of 10 to 14 may represent moderate severity.