

Documentation and Reporting Social Determinants of Health

DOCUMENTATION TIPS

Social determinants of health (SDOH) may be used to identify socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances that impact a patient's physical and mental health and ability to receive healthcare. Screen at-risk patients for SDOH. The patient may self-report or complete a screening tool that may be used to capture the pertinent information. Healthcare professionals other than the patient's provider may document SDOH. Diagnosis codes that identify the patient's socioeconomic status related to SDOH may be reported based on documentation from clinicians other than the diagnosing provider, as well as the patient's provider.

Screening Tools

The American Academy of Family Practitioners offers a Social Needs Screening Tool, which the patient completes. ²

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services offers The Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool (AHC) (HRSN). ³

National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) offers the Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patient Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE) tool ⁴

Screening tools assist in gathering information through a series of questions in these domains:

Housing instability	Interpersonal safety	Education
Food insecurity	Financial strain	Physical activity
Transportation problems	Employment	Substance use
Utility help needs	Family and community support	Mental health

Problems related to education and literacy (not an all-inclusive list)

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
Z55.0	Illiteracy and low-level literacy
Z55.1	Schooling unavailable and unattainable
Z55.2	Failed school examinations
Z55.3	Underachievement in school

Problems related to employment and unemployment (not an all-inclusive list)

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
Z56.0	Unemployment, unspecified
Z56.1	Change of job
Z56.2	Threat of job loss
Z55.3	Underachievement in school

Problems related to Occupational exposure to risk factors (not an all-inclusive list)

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
Z57.0	Occupational exposure to noise
Z57.1	Occupational exposure to radiation
Z57.2	Occupational exposure to dust
Z57.31	Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke
Z57.39	Occupational exposure to other air contaminants
Z57.4	Occupational exposure to toxic agents in agriculture
Z57.5	Occupational exposure to toxic agents in other industries
Z57.6	Occupational exposure to extreme temperature
Z57.7	Occupational exposure to vibration

Problems related to housing and economic circumstances (not an all-inclusive list)

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
Z59.0	Homelessness
Z59.1	Inadequate housing
Z59.2	Discord with neighbors, lodgers and landlord
Z59.3	Problems related to living in residential institution
Z59.4	Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water
Z59.5	Extreme poverty
Z59.6	Low income
Z59.7	Insufficient social insurance and welfare support

Problems related to social environment (not an all-inclusive list)

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
Z60.0	Problems of adjustment to life-cycle transitions
Z60.2	Problems related to living alone
Z60.3	Acculturation difficulty
Z60.4	Social exclusion and rejection
Z60.5	Target of (perceived) adverse discrimination and persecution

According to the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022: “A dash (-) at the end of an alphabetic index entry indicates that additional characters are required.” Refer to the tabular list to identify the appropriate character(s) that will complete the diagnosis code.

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022. 1 Oct. 2021, www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf. Accessed 30 Nov. 2021.
2. American Academy of Family Practitioners. The Everyone Project. https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient_care/everyone_project/hops19-physician-form-sdoh.pdf. Accessed September 29, 2021.
3. Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening Tool. <https://innovation.cms.gov/files/worksheets/ahcm-screeningtool.pdf>
4. National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) PRAPARE tool https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/PRAPARE_One_Pager_Sept_2016.pdf