

Health Measure TIPS (To Improve Performance Sheet): Addressing Social Determinants of Health in HUSKY Health Members to Improve Health Outcomes

The World Health Organization defines Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) as the “conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.”¹ They include factors like:

- Access to healthcare
- Education
- Employment
- Physical environment
- Socioeconomic status
- Social support networks

Did you know?

- In 2020, 10.5% of U.S. households were food insecure (lacking reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food)²
- 7.77 million renter households were classified as having worst-case housing needs or as having experienced housing instability in 2019, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)³
- According to a study published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, housing instability is known to adversely affect health. This population was shown to have frequent emergency department use, and the findings suggest that patients may benefit from efforts to identify housing instability⁴

SDOH can affect the health and quality of life for your patients. By identifying and addressing these barriers, either directly or through timely referrals, you can help improve health outcomes for your patients.

This quality metric is recognized by a number of national quality improvement measure stewards, and supports an objective of the *Healthy People 2030* initiative developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Quality Improvement Opportunities

- Evaluate all patients for SDOH needs
 - Consider asking, “In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn’t eat because there wasn’t enough money for food?”
 - “Are you worried or concerned that you may not have a place to live?”
 - “Are you currently employed?”
- Document and code claims appropriately
- Make referrals when appropriate, to 2-1-1 or the CHNCT ICM program

Tools & Resources for Healthcare Professionals

- The Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc.[®] (CHNCT) Intensive Care Management (ICM) program helps patients who have SDOH needs. An ICM care manager will coordinate referrals to ensure that your patient is connected to the appropriate resources to meet their needs. To refer patients to HUSKY Health ICM, download the referral form at <https://portal.ct.gov/husky>, click on “*Information for Providers*,” then select the “*Reports & Resources*” menu item, then “*Provider Forms*,” then select “*ICM Referral Form*.”

Resources for Patients and Families

- Connecticut 2-1-1 is a one-stop service that can help people find the local resources they need. Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211ct.org.

***SDOH Codes**

Ensuring that the proper ICD-10 codes are captured on a claim will allow individuals who may need assistance, to be identified and connected to, the appropriate community resources.

DESCRIPTION	ICD-10 CODES
FOOD INSECURITY	Z59.4
HOUSING INSTABILITY	Z59.0
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK	Z63.0
PROBLEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT	Z60.0, Z60.2, Z60.3, Z60.4, Z60.5, Z60.8, Z60.9
PROBLEMS WITH PRIMARY SUPPORT GROUP INCLUDING FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES	Z63.0, Z63.1, Z63.31, Z63.32, Z63.4, Z63.5, Z63.6, Z63.71, Z63.72, Z63.79, Z63.8, Z63.9
PROBLEMS RELATED TO PSYCHOSOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES	Z64.0, Z64.1, Z64.4, Z65.0, Z65.1, Z65.2, Z65.3, Z65.4, Z65.5, Z65.8, Z65.9
PROBLEMS RELATED TO EDUCATION AND LITERACY	Z55.0, Z55.1, Z55.2, Z55.3, Z55.4, Z55.8, Z55.9
PROBLEMS RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT	Z56.0, Z56.1, Z56.2, Z56.3, Z56.4, Z56.5, Z56.6, Z56.81, Z56.82, Z56.89, Z56.9
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE RISK	Z57.0, Z57.1, Z57.2, Z57.31, Z57.39, Z57.4, Z57.5, Z57.6, Z57.7, Z57.8, Z57.9
ECONOMIC BARRIERS	Z59.1, Z59.2, Z59.3, Z59.5, Z59.6, Z59.7, Z59.8, Z59.9
PROBLEMS RELATED TO UPBRINGING (ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES [ACE])	Z62.0, Z62.1, Z62.21, Z62.22, Z62.29, Z62.3, Z62.6, Z62.810, Z62.811, Z62.812, Z62.819, Z62.820, Z62.821, Z62.822, Z62.890, Z62.891, Z62.898, Z62.9, Z04.81, Z04.82, Z62.813, Z91.42

Additional Information on HUSKY Health

For information on quality improvement, quality measures, or the programs and services made available through the HUSKY Health program:

- Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/husky>, click “**Information for Providers**,” then select “**Health Measures**” under the “**Reports & Resources**” menu item
- Email: Quality@chnct.org
- Call: 1.866.317.3301

References

¹ World Health Organization. Social Determinants of Health. (2021)
Retrieved from https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_3

² U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food Security in the U.S. Key Statistics & Graphics. September 8, 2021.
Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx#foodsecure>

³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Office of Policy Development and Research. Worst Case Housing Needs 2021 Report to Congress. July 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Worst-Case-Housing-Needs-2021.pdf>

⁴ Doran, K., et al. Homeless Shelter Entry in the Year After an Emergency Department Visit: Results From a Linked Data Analysis. Health Policy/ Brief Research Report. Volume 76, Issue 4, P462-467. October 1, 2020. Annals of Emergency Medicine.
Retrieved from [https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644\(20\)30180-3/fulltext](https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(20)30180-3/fulltext).

*Code sets are routinely updated. Please reference the current year’s manuals when billing for services. Not all codes listed above are reimbursable. For a list of codes reimbursed by DSS, please refer to the Physician Office and Outpatient Services Fee Schedule on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program website: www.ctdssmap.com.