

Purpose

This resource is intended to provide home based medical care providers and practice staff an overview of the basic understanding of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH), its impact in patient care and medical decision making, and the importance of documentation in the SDoH Risk Assessment. Refer to CMS guidelines¹ for full details and requirements.

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

Per CMS, the Social Determinants of Health are conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

SDoH and Patient Care

Social Determinants of Health encompass the structural, systemic, and contextual factors that shape a person's life with evidence showing that identifying and addressing SDoH is essential in reducing health outcomes.

Billing Social Determinants of Health Risk Assessment

In the past, Social Determinants of Health was not a billable service, although a majority of physicians have always included this practice in the model of care for patients. In November 2023, CMS Medicare PFS 2024 Final Rule, HCPCS code G0136 will be established as a stand-alone G code for the SDoH Risk Assessment furnished in conjunction with an E/M, some mental or behavioral visits, or an Annual Wellness visit for an additional payment beginning on January 1, 2024². SDoH risk assessment using HCPCS G0136: Administration of a standardized, evidence-based social determinants of health risk assessment, 5-15 minutes, not more often than every 6 months.

CMS will not require the SDoH risk assessment to be performed on the same day as the E/M visit.

HCPCS code G0136 has a wRVU of .18 with a 2024 National CMS Non-Facility Payment rate of \$18.66 and a Facility Payment rate of \$8.84 in 2024.

SDoH Risk Assessment Tool

CMS recommends an evidence-based, standardized SDoH risk assessment tool that is in the form of a questionnaire and must cover at minimum the following domains:

- Housing insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Utility difficulty
- Transportation needs

¹ <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/fee-schedules/physician/care-management>

² <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2023-24184.pdf>

While CMS does not have a specific SDoH Risk Assessment template that is required for the assessment, the following resources are suggested, focusing on the important domains listed above. This is not an exhaustive list:

- Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool
- American Academy of Family Physicians Social Needs Screening Tool
- HealthBegins
- Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE)
- Virginia Commonwealth University Health System: Social Needs Assessment

Best Practices for Understanding SDoH

- Have a thorough understanding of the impact of SDoH on care provided to patients
- Establish a healthy rapport with your patients and/or caregiver
- Have a well-established risk assessment tool used for all patients covering the common areas of insecurity with a direct impact on a patient's health outcomes
- Make sure to follow up with results to best support the patient and provide optimal care, especially if patients are experiencing major insecurities in their lives. Utilize CHI and/or PIN services in instances where necessary for better patient outcomes
- Track SDoH Risk Assessments completion and be sure to render another assessment, if necessary, in six months
- Be sure to include and educate the patient in the process from beginning to end, for clarity and compliance with the treatment plan.

List of Z Codes for Social Determinants of Health Coding and Documentation

Coding Social Determinants of Health using Z Codes

SDoH-related ICD-10-CM are Z codes, ranging from Z55 to 565 and are used to document data that can impact patient health status (such as housing, food insecurity, transportation status, etc.)

The following SDoH-related Z codes are commonly found and used to provide services in Home Based Primary Care:

Z55 Problems related to education and literacy

- Z55.0 Illiteracy and low-level literacy
- Z55.1 Schooling unavailable and unattainable
- Z55.2 Failed school examinations
- Z55.3 Underachievement in school
- Z55.4 Educational maladjustment and discord with teachers and classmates
- Z55.5 Less than a high school diploma
- Z55.6 Problems related to health literacy
- Z55.8 Other problems related to education and literacy
- Z55.9 Problems related to education and literacy, unspecified

Z56 Problems related to employment and unemployment

- Z56.0 Unemployment, unspecified
- Z56.1 Change of job
- Z56.2 Threat of job loss
- Z56.3 Stressful work schedule
- Z56.4 Discord with boss and workmates
- Z56.5 Uncongenial work environment
- Z56.6 Other physical and mental strain related to work
- Z56.8 Other problems related to employment

- Z56.81 Sexual harassment on the job
- Z56.82 Military deployment status
- Z56.89 Other problems related to employment
- Z56.9 Unspecified problems related to employment

Z57 Occupational exposure to risk factors

- Z57.0 Occupational exposure to noise
- Z57.1 Occupational exposure to radiation
- Z57.2 Occupational exposure to dust
- Z57.3 Occupational exposure to other air contaminants
 - 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
- Z57.8 Occupational exposure to other risk factors
- Z57.9 Occupational exposure to unspecified risk factor

Z58 Problems related to physical environment

- Z58.6 Inadequate drinking-water supply
- Z58.8 Other problems related to physical environment
 - Z58.81 Basic services unavailable in physical environment
 - Z58.89 Other problems related to physical environment

Z59 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances

- Z59.0 Homelessness
 - Z59.00 unspecified
 - Z59.01 Sheltered homelessness
 - Z59.02 Unsheltered homelessness
- Z59.1 Inadequate housing
 - Z59.10 unspecified
 - Z59.11 environmental temperature
 - Z59.12 utilities
 - Z59.19 Other 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
 - Z59.41 Food insecurity
 - Z59.48 Other specified lack of adequate food
- Z59.5 Extreme poverty
- Z59.6 Low income
- Z59.7 Insufficient social insurance and welfare support
- Z59.8 Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances
 - Z59.81 Housing instability, housed
 - Z59.811 with risk of homelessness
 - Z59.812 homelessness in past 12 months
 - Z59.819 unspecified

- Z59.82 Transportation insecurity
- Z59.86 Financial insecurity
- Z59.87 Material hardship due to limited financial resources, not elsewhere classified
- Z59.89 Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances
- Z59.9 Problem related to housing and economic circumstances, unspecified

Z60 Problems related to social environment

- 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 persecutor
- Z60.8 Other problems related to social environment
- Z60.9 Problem related to social environment, unspecified

Z62 Problems related to upbringing

- Z62.0 Inadequate parental supervision and control
- Z62.1 Parental overprotect
- Z62.2 Upbringing away from parents
 - Z62.21 Child in welfare custody
 - Z62.22 Insultant upbringing
 - Z62.23 Child in custody of non-parental relative
 - Z62.24 Child in custody of non-relative guardian
 - Z62.29 Other upbringing away from parents
- Z62.3 Hostility towards and scapegoat of child
- Z62.6 Inappropriate (excessive) parental pressure
- Z62.8 Other specified problems related to upbringing
 - Z62.81 Personal history of abuse in childhood
 - Z62.810 Personal history of physical and sexual abuse in childhood
 - Z62.811 Personal history of psychological abuse in childhood
 - Z62.812 Personal history of neglect in childhood
 - Z62.813 Personal history of forced labor or sexual exploitation in childhood
 - Z62.814 Personal history of child financial abuse
 - Z62.815 Personal history of intimate partner abuse in childhood
 - Z62.819 Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood
 - Z62.82 Parent-child conflict
 - Z62.820 Parent-biological child conflict
 - Z62.821 Parent-adopted child conflict
 - Z62.822 Parent-foster child conflict
 - Z62.823 Parent-step child conflict
 - Z62.83 Non-parental relative or guardian-child conflict
 - Z62.831 Non-parental relative-child conflict
 - Z62.832 Non-relative guardian-child conflict
 - Z62.833 Group home staff-child conflict
 - Z62.89 Other specified problems related to upbringing
 - Z62.890 Parent-child estrangement NEC
 - Z62.891 Sibling rivalry

Z62.892 Runaway [from current living environment]

Z62.898 Other specified problems related to upbringing

Z62.9 Problem related to upbringing, unspecified

Z63 Other problems related to primary support group, including family circumstances

Z63.0 Problems in relationship with spouse or partner

Z63.1 Problems in relationship with in-laws

Z63.3 Absence of family member

Z63.31 due to military deployment

Z63.32 Other absence of family member

Z63.4 Disappearance and death of family member

Z63.5 Disruption of family by separation and divorce

Z63.6 Dependent relative needing care at home

Z63.7 Other stressful life events affecting family and household

Z63.71 Stress on family due to return of family member from military deployment

Z63.72 Alcoholism and drug addiction in family

Z63.79 Other stressful life events affecting family and household

Z63.8 Other specified problems related to primary support group

Z63.9 Problem related to primary support group, unspecified

Z64 Problems related to certain psychosocial circumstances

Z64.0 Problems related to unwanted pregnancy

Z64.1 Problems related to multiparity

Z64.4 Discord with counselors

Z65 Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances

Z65.0 Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment

Z65.1 Imprisonment and other incarceration

Z65.2 Problems related to release from prison

Z65.3 Problems related to other legal circumstances

Z65.4 Victim of crime and terrorism

Z65.5 Exposure to disaster, war and other hostilities

Z65.8 Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances

Z65.9 Problem related to unspecified psychosocial circumstances



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