

Provider Connections



A Monthly Newsletter from HealthTeam Advantage

October 2023

The Importance of Collecting Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) fall under “Healthy People 2030.”

Healthy People 2030, a decade-long initiative developed through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is data-driven national objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade.

In a recent statement from both the Joint Commission and CMS, “by incorporating SDOH into their accreditation standards and value-based care programs, this will likely lead to improved patient health and reduced health disparities over time.”

HINT: You can expect this to become a Star measure for the collection of HEDIS! Do not be caught with a blank on your patients’ records. Be sure to question your patients’ status on their current SDOH. Life happens quickly, and circumstances change with the beat of a heart!

Social Determinants of Health are the 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. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that SDOH accounts for 30-55% of health outcomes.

Z Codes are Key

It has been shown that the capturing of Z codes can potentially reduce hospitalizations and unnecessary ER visits by screening for social needs and connecting them to care managers and community health workers. SDOH can be collected through person-provider interaction or be self-reported, as long as it is signed off on and incorporated into the medical record by the clinician or provider.

The Z codes that address factors influencing health status and contact with health services are Z00-Z99. The Z codes that are generally addressed during an office visit are Z55-Z65. These include housing, inadequate access to food, income instability, life stressors, and social environment.

If you are being required to ask these questions, we realize you need to be prepared to support the members’ needs that are uncovered. Here is a list of support that is available throughout the various communities to assist in you providing answers to your members:

[Resources for the Triad Area](#)

[Transportation in Guilford County](#)

[Alamance County Resources](#)

[Senior Services in Forsyth County](#)

[Guilford County Resources](#)

HealthTeam advantage is willing to offer support through the various outlets available to members as well. Just refer them to number on the back of their card or one of the many opportunities available in your area. We will do our part to keep offices updated on what is available in your area. Thanks for doing your part by asking the SDOH questions!



Coding Tip Corner

The ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting on encounters for COVID-19 screening have been revised. Some important updates that became effective October 1, 2023:

- For encounters for COVID-19 screening on or after October 1, assign code Z11.52, Encounter for screening for COVID-19.
- For an encounter for COVID-19 screening that is performed as part of preoperative testing, assign code Z01.812, Encounter for preprocedural laboratory examination, as the first-listed diagnosis and code Z11.52, Encounter for screening for COVID-19, as an additional diagnosis.

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Need Assistance?

Contact Your Dedicated Provider Concierge:

Phone: [844-806-8217](tel:844-806-8217) option 5

Email: providerconcierge@htanc.com

Have a compliance concern or suspect fraud, waste, or abuse?

Contact the Compliance Helpline (anonymously if you wish) at:

1-855-741-4518 or www.hta.ethicspoint.com



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