

Coding for Social Determinants of Health



Recorded December 6, 2023

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

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- CDC defines SDoH as “economic and social conditions that influence the health of people and communities.”
- Not considered risk factors for a specific disease or injury but affects patient’s health and health outcomes
- Doesn’t include patient behaviors, such as smoking or drinking

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CMS

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- Estimates that ~50% of an individual's health is directly related to SDoH

Broadly, SDoH is “economic stability, education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context, which includes factors like housing, food and nutrition access, and transportation needs.” *CMS Final Rule, p. 344*

”An SDOH risk assessment without appropriate follow-up for identified needs would serve little purpose.” *CMS Final Rule, p. 346*

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CMS

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- The identified SDoH needs “***must be*** documented in the medical record and may be documented using a set of ICD-10-CM Z codes (Z55—Z65)....”
- “We are requiring that the SDoH needs identified through risk assessment be documented in the medical record, and we are actively encouraging Z-code reporting to improve your data and understanding....”

As part of an ACO/risk contracts, **you must add them to the claim form for them to be credited**

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Assessment of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

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G0136 Administration of a standardized evidence-based Social Determinants of Health Risk Assessment, 5-15 minutes, not more often than every 6 months.

- CMS wants to identify and value the work involved in SDoH assessment as part of a comprehensive social history, when medically necessary in relation to an E/M visit and certain behavioral visits
- Represented by ICD-10-CM codes Z55—Z65
- Added permanently to telehealth list

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Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

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- Is not a screening service, but an assessment tool: don't use portal to "screen" all patients prior to visit
- In most cases, not performed in advance of the visit.
- "We reiterate that the SDoH risk assessment code, HCPCS code G0136, when performed in conjunction with an E/M or behavioral health visit is not designed to be a screening, but rather tied to one or more known or suspected SDoH needs that may interfere with the practitioners' diagnosis or treatment of the patient."

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Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

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“We continue to believe that follow-up or referral is an important aspect of following up on findings from an SDoH risk assessment.”

- Understands practices can't solve long-standing concerns/problems
- Focused on risk assessment to identify issues that impact practitioner's ability to diagnosis and treat patient

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Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

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- May be done on the day of an E/M service (not 99211)
- May be done on the day of an Annual Wellness Visit if a physician/NP/PA is doing the AWV
- May be billed with hospital discharge codes IF there will be follow up of unmet needs after assessment
- May be done at a TCM visit

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Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

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- May also be billed on the same day as 90791, 96156, 96158, 96159, 96164, 96165, 96167, 96168
- May be done by clinical psychologists, but CMS not including social workers as providers who can do the assessment

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Possible tools for assessment

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- CMS Accountable Health Communities tool
<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/files/worksheets/ahcm-screeningtool.pdf>
- Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks & Experiences (PRAPARE)
<https://prapare.org/>

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G0136

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- wRVU .18

Outpatient department POS 19/21

- Total facility RVU .27; national fee amount \$8.84

Office setting POS 11

- Total facility RVU .57; national fee amount \$18.66

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ICD-10-CM Guidelines

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“Documentation by a clinician (or patient-reported information that is signed off by a clinician) that the patient expressed concerns with access and availability of food would support assignment of code Z59.41, Food insecurity. Similarly, medical record documentation indicating the patient is homeless would support assignment of a code from subcategory Z59.0-, Homelessness.”

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ICD-10-CM Guidelines

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“....code assignment may be based on medical record documentation from clinicians involved in the care of the patient who are not the patient’s provider since this information represents social information, rather than medical diagnoses. For example, coding professionals may utilize documentation of social information from social workers, community health workers, case managers, or nurses, if their documentation is included in the official medical record.”

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ICD-10-CM Guidelines

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“Patient self-reported documentation may be used to assign codes for social determinants of health, as long as the patient self-reported information is signed-off by and incorporated into the medical record by either a clinician or provider.”

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Z55-Z65

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- ICD-10 codes Z55—Z65 “persons with potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances”
- Adding SDoH codes doesn’t change payment for an individual claim
- Communicates to the payer social conditions that affect outcomes and costs
- Tells the story about the population of patients you see
- Use if reporting G0136

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Category of codes

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Z55 Problems related to education and literacy

Z56 Problems related to employment and unemployment

Z57 Occupational exposure to risk factors

Z58 Problems related to physical environment

Z59 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances

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Category of codes

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Z60 Problems related to social environment

Z62 Problems related to upbringing

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

Z64 Problems related to certain psychosocial circumstances

Z65 Problems related to other psychological circumstances

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Occupational exposure risk factors

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- Includes:
- Z57.31 Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke
- Z57.4 Occupational exposure toxic agents in agriculture
- And, exposure to noise, radiation, dust, extreme temperature, vibration

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Housing and economic circumstances

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- Z59.00 Homelessness, unspecified
- Z59.01 Sheltered homelessness
- Z59.02 Unsheltered homelessness
- Z59.10 Inadequate housing, unspecified
- Z59.11 Inadequate housing environmental
- Z59.12 Inadequate house utilities
- Z59.19 Other inadequate housing

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Housing and economic circumstances

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- 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

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Other codes

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- Z58.6 Inadequate drinking water
- Z58.81 Basic services unavailable in physical environment
- Z59.82 Transportation insecurity
- Z59.86 Financial insecurity
- Z62.21 Child in welfare custody
- Z65.1 Imprisonment and other incarceration
- Z65.2 Problems related to release from prison

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Medication underdosing

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Not SDoH codes, but useful

- Z91.120 Patient's intentional underdosing of medication due to financial hardship
- Z91.128 Patient's intentional underdosing of medication for other reason

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Thank you

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