



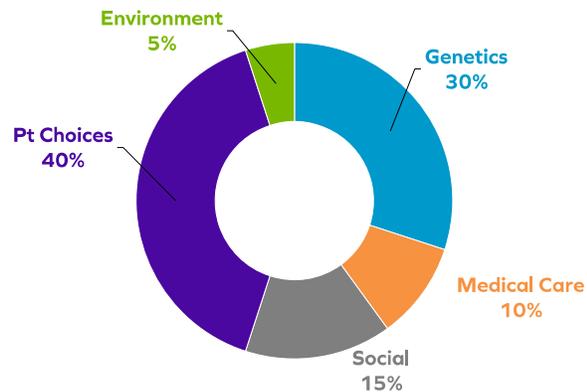
Coding for Social
Determinants of Health
(SDoH)

TIP SHEET

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

- Health encompasses many facets of our lives and is more than physical well-being.
- Health begins in our homes, neighbourhoods, schools, communities, and workplaces and is influenced by several factors.
- According to the World Health Organization, “Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.
- These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. “

Proportional Contribution to Premature Death



SDoH for a Healthcare Professional

Why Does it Matter?

- Poor SDoH conditions have been shown to negatively affect outcomes such as:
 - ▶ hospital readmissions rates
 - ▶ length of stay
 - ▶ use of post-acute care
- Value-based payment programs may penalize organizations that disproportionately serve disadvantaged populations.

Coding Guidelines for SDoH

ICD-10-CM Coding Guideline for SDoH

- For social determinants of health, such as information found in categories **Z55-Z65**, Persons with potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances, 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.

Who can Document SDoH?

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

ICD 10 CM Code Category for SDoH

ICD-10-CM Code Category	Problems/Risk Factors Included in Category
Z55 – Problems related to education and literacy	Illiteracy, schooling unavailable, underachievement in a school, educational maladjustment and discord with teachers and classmates.
Z56 – Problems related to employment and unemployment	Unemployment, change of job, threat of job loss, stressful work schedule, discord with boss and workmates, uncongenial work environment, sexual harassment on the job, and military deployment status.
Z57 – Occupational exposure to risk factors	Occupational exposure to noise, radiation, dust, environmental tobacco smoke, toxic agents in agriculture, toxic agents in other industries, extreme temperature, and vibration.
Z59 – Problems related to housing and economic circumstances	Homelessness, inadequate housing, discord with neighbors, lodgers and landlord, problems related to living in residential institutions, lack of adequate food and safe drinking water, extreme poverty, low income, insufficient social insurance and welfare support.
Z60 – Problems related to social environment	Adjustment to life-cycle transitions, living alone, acculturation difficulty, social exclusion and rejection, target of adverse discrimination and persecution.
Z62 – Problems related to upbringing	Inadequate parental supervision and control, parental overprotection, upbringing away from parents, child in welfare custody, institutional upbringing, hostility towards and scapegoating of child, inappropriate excessive parental pressure, personal history of abuse in childhood, personal history of neglect in childhood, Z62.819 Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood, Parent-child conflict, and sibling rivalry.
Z63 – Other problems related to primary support group, including family circumstances	Absence of family member, disappearance and death of family member, disruption of family by separation and divorce, dependent relative needing care at home, stressful life events affecting family and household, stress on family due to return of family member from military deployment, alcoholism and drug addiction in family.
Z64 – Problems related to certain psychosocial circumstances	Unwanted pregnancy, multiparity, and discord with counselors.
Z65 – Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances	Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment, imprisonment and other incarceration, release from prison, other legal circumstances, victim of crime and terrorism, and exposure to disaster, war and other hostilities.

Data Insights

Current Situation of SDoH Screening

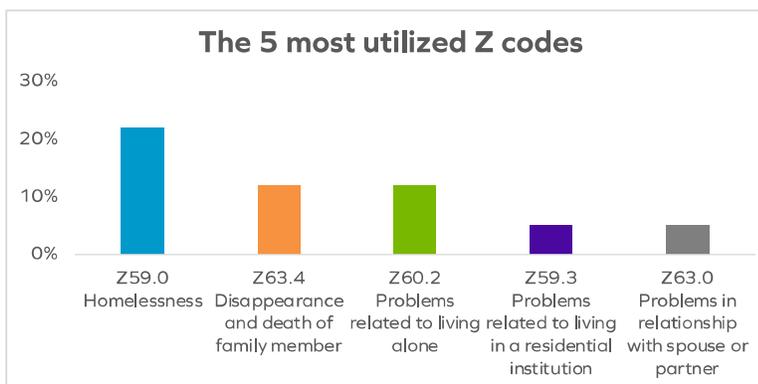
- In a cross-sectional study of US hospitals and physician practices, approximately 24% of hospitals and 16% of physician practices reported screening for:
 - ▶ food insecurity
 - ▶ housing instability
 - ▶ utility needs
 - ▶ transportation needs
 - ▶ interpersonal violence
- Practices that treat severely disadvantaged patients report higher screening rates.
- SDoH data collection lacks standardization and reimbursement across clinical settings.

AHIMA SDoH Survey 2020

- 56% of organizations collect SDoH data
- 73% of organizations report not having a governance committee that oversees collection and use of SDoH data
- 37% Registration/Patient Financial services collect and use SDoH
- 17% uses EHR technology (alerts/triggers) to notify clinicians that SDoH documentation (e.g., food or housing insecurity) has been captured

Utilization of Z codes for SDoH among Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries, 2019

- Among the 33.1 million continuously enrolled in Medicare FFS beneficiaries in 2019, 1.59% had claims with Z codes.
- Beneficiaries in rural areas were overrepresented (39.7%) among those with a Z59.3 – Problems related to living in a residential institution claim.



What can You do?

To Help in Capturing & Documenting SDoH data

- Hospitals should educate key stakeholders, including physicians, non-physician health care providers, and coding professionals of the important need to screen, document and code data on patients' social needs. Utilizing Z codes will allow hospitals and health systems to better track patient needs and identify solutions to improve the health of their communities.
 - As coding professionals review a patient's medical record to identify the appropriate ICD-10-CM codes to include on the encounter. Coders should be aware of and begin utilizing the ICD-10-CM codes included in categories Z55-Z65.
 - Hospital leaders can prioritize the importance of documenting and coding patients' social needs and allow coders extra time to integrate coding for social determinants into their processes.
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Case Studies

Where to find Documentation of SDoH in the Medical Records

Case Study 1

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY:

MDD, GAD, S/A by overdose on polypharmacy, HIV disease, elevated LFTs, elevated alkaline phosphatase, hep C, migraines, THC/meth/cocaine/ heroin use disorder including IVDA, and schizoaffective disorder.

SOCIAL HISTORY:

Smokes. Drinks. Uses drugs. Counseled to stop. Homeless and does not work.

FAMILY HISTORY:

Mom and brother have pancreatic cancer.

Case Study 2

HPI:

23F who was brought to the ED after reportedly having a seizure. When I arrived to evaluate her she was mentating well and so was able to provide me with a little bit more additional history than she had in the ED. says she is homeless. She has no relationship with any family members including the grandmother which had been called. She says she has a history of bipolar disorder and seizures as well as possibly multiple personality disorder. I see that she has had many admissions to inpatient psychiatric facilities and on review of at least 1 note she has had threats of suicide in the past.

Case Study 3

Discharge diagnosis:

non cardiac chest pressure

distal dysphagia solids > liquids

GERD

gastro esophagitis - severe social stress

Hospital course:

84 y/o admitted for chest pressure with htn, high cholesterol and bradycardia hx.

Case Study 4

After counseling, we decided on the following plan for the left ear: Medical management

- 4. Occupational exposure to noise
Occupational exposure to noise (Z57.0)

Plan: Clearance for hearing aids.
I have evaluated the patient and s/he is medically cleared for hearing aids.

Case Study 5

PREOPERATIVE DIAGNOSES:
Multiparity, desires permanent sterilization .

POSTOPERATIVE DIAGNOSES:
Multiparity, desires permanent sterilization .

PROCEDURE:
Laparoscopic tubal ligation with Filshie clips.

REFERENCES:

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FY 2022 ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmsa073350>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/z-codes-data-highlight.pdf>

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