

# Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)



Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are socioeconomic factors that may affect a person's health. SDoH include environmental and societal conditions such as education and literacy, employment, health behaviors, housing, lack of adequate food or water, occupational exposure to risk factors, social support, transportation, and violence. Accurate and complete documentation of SDoH is critical in identifying health disparities and developing interventions to address them to improve patient quality of care.

## Social determinants of health codes are in ICD-10-CM Chapter 21.

Z code categories (Z55-Z65)

- 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
- 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 psychosocial circumstances

This list is subject to revisions and additions to improve alignment with SDoH data elements.

Codes describing problems or risk factors related to SDoH should be assigned when this information is documented in the patient's medical record. Providers should assign as many SDoH codes as necessary to describe all the problems or risk factors.

- These codes should be assigned only when the documentation specifies that the patient has an associated problem or risk factor. For example, not every individual living alone would be assigned code Z60.2, problems related to living alone.

Since codes in these categories represent social information rather than medical diagnoses, they can be assigned based on documentation by nonphysician clinicians involved in the care of these patients as well as self-reported documentation from the patient, as long as the information is approved and incorporated into the medical record by a clinician or provider.

- Incorporating a questionnaire that patients can complete in the waiting room or online before their visit allows providers to learn of and address any external factors that may impede their patients' health outcomes. You can find SDoH questionnaire options online or create your own.

**Patients can complete an SDoH questionnaire online or in the waiting room before their visit.**

**Any member of a patient's care team can collect SDoH data.**

References: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2022-icd-10-cm>, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd-10-cm.htm>

ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are subject to change. It's the responsibility of the provider to ensure that current ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes and the current ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are reviewed prior to the submission of claims.

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