

## Social Determinants of Health

While there are a number of ICD-10-CM codes that identify a variety of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), there are no unique ICD-10-CM codes that identify social diagnoses or barriers to health care. As such, United Healthcare (UHC) support new ICD-10-CM codes that expand the existing SDOH codes. The proposed expanded ICD-10-CM codes would capture these social diagnoses and barrier situations to assist providers and consumers in obtaining routine care, medications, and preventive services that are not captured today, thereby benefiting the industry as a whole in the management of patient care.

The Chronic Care Act of 2018 seeks to provide Medicare consumers more integrated care by integrating medical and non-medical care. Additionally, several of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures require to report an outpatient visit that may be difficult to complete due to social barriers that are unrelated to a consumer's health. For example, breast cancer screening must be completed in a location with mammography equipment. If a consumer has no means of transportation, or cannot afford to pay for transportation to a breast cancer screening center, the probability is high that this screening will not occur.

Expanding the ICD-10-CM code set would allow for population health improvement, along with the opportunity for National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to expand HEDIS measurements around social barrier identification and assistance in the future. Today, capturing SDOH barriers appear to vary widely throughout the industry, rendering it a fragmented, inconsistent way of both capturing and using this information.

Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine-Clinical Terms (SNOMED-CT) and Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) are other coding standards that have also identified some SDOH codes, however for varying reasons, they would be a substandard solution.

UHC believes utilizing the ICD-10-CM codes is a logical choice, as it is the standard language between care providers and payers. The existing SDOH range Z55-Z65 in the ICD-10-CM has been labeled as "Persons with potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances," validating that an expansion of these codes would be warranted within the ICD-10-CM classification.

In 2017, UHC began a national initiative to capture, code, and refer to social and governmental programs those members who self-identified a SDOH. The work began with data from UHC's Medicare Advantage members, but the model is applicable to data collection and use for any consumer. From 1/1/2016 – 10/30/18, UHC has received over 2 million coded claims for social barriers from its contracted and non-contracted providers when there is an available ICD-10-CM code. UHC has found that providers do submit codes when available. Additionally, much of this data exists in physician's electronic medical records as a result of health risk assessments, but without additional ICD-10-CM codes, SDOH cannot be coded or captured, to improve coordination of non-health and medical/behavioral services.

For example, if only the Z59.6 Low Income, code is used, there is virtually no way to assist the consumer without asking them for more specificity. Not only is this additional step time consuming to the health care professional, it may be considered abrasive to the consumer, and it does not allow for any standardized assistance to be created for either the individual consumer or the broader population.

Another example may be that solving for an inability to pay for prescriptions is a completely different action using different resources than solving for the inability to pay for transportation (or any of the other proposed Z59.61-68 codes listed below).

UHC is requesting further granularity to existing code categories Z55-Z65 to increase specificity needed to appropriately capture, analyze, and act on SDOH data to improve outcomes for both consumers and populations.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and the Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation (CHRT) University of Michigan have endorsed the use and expansion of the ICD-10-CM codes as a standardized model for data collection and social barrier removal.

*CDC Healthy People 2020* highlights the importance of addressing SDOH by including “create social and physical environments that promote good health for all” as one of the four overarching goals for the decade.” As there is no single vocabulary that covers all aspects of SDOH, NCHS believes that a broader discussion with stakeholders and other code set developers should occur to ensure the goals of interoperability and harmonization are met and maintained.

While NCHS agrees that social determinants of health are important, some concepts may be considered for inclusion in ICD-10-CM, while others may be more appropriately placed in other code sets and vocabularies. We are interested in receiving input from the public on these proposed new codes.

## TABULAR MODIFICATIONS

	Z55	Problems related to education and literacy
		Excludes1: disorders of psychological development (F80-F89)
New code		Z55.5 Less than a high school degree
New code		Z55.6 High school diploma or GED
	Z56	Problems related to employment and unemployment
		Excludes2: occupational exposure to risk factors (Z57.-)
		problems related to housing and economic circumstances (Z59.-)
	Z56.8	Other problems related to employment
New Code		Z56.83 Unemployed and seeking work
New Code		Z56.84 Unemployed but not seeking work
New Code		Z56.85 Employed part time or temporary
New Code		Z56.86 Employed full time

Z59 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances  
Excludes2: problems related to upbringing (Z62.-)

New subcategory

Z59.6 Low Income

New Code

Z59.61 Unable to pay for prescriptions

New Code

Z59.62 Unable to pay for utilities

New Code

Z59.63 Unable to pay for medical care

Z59.64 Unable to pay for transportation for medical  
appointments or prescriptions

New Code

Z59.65 Unable to pay for phone

New Code

Z59.66 Unable to pay for adequate clothing

New Code

Z59.67 Unable to find or pay for child care

New Code

Z59.69 Unable to pay for other needed items

Z59.9 Problem related to housing and economic circumstances,  
unspecified

New Code

Z59.91 Worried about losing housing

Z60 Problems related to social environment

Z60.8 Other problems related to social environment

New Code

Z60.81 Unable to deal with stress

New Code

Z60.82 Inadequate social interaction - limited to once or twice a  
week

New Code

Z60.83 Can hardly ever count on family and friends in times of  
trouble

New Code

Z60.84 Feeling unsafe in current location

New Code

Z60.85 Stressed quite a bit or very much

New Code

Z60.86 Stressed somewhat