



**AmeriHealth Caritas**<sup>™</sup>  
District of Columbia

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers  
**Date:** July 22, 2022  
**Subject:** Collecting Social Determinant of Health Data

Dear Provider:

AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC) recently created the attached resource to help providers identify and address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and ensure that our enrollees have the critical support and services they need.

By utilizing this resource, you will help AmeriHealth Caritas DC have actionable data and be able to respond to our enrollees' unmet needs.

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 202-408-2237.

# Collecting Social Determinants of Health Data to Address Enrollees' Unmet Needs



At AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC), we put our enrollees and our families first. We work to improve not only their health, but also the economic and social issues that can act as a barrier to proper care — social determinants of health that are estimated to account for 70 percent of avoidable mortality<sup>1</sup> in the United States alone.

AmeriHealth Caritas DC assesses, identifies, and addresses health care and social determinants of health needs in the populations we serve, helping to enable our enrollees to live healthier lives and achieve maximum independence.

## What are social determinants of health?

Our mission to build strong, healthy communities goes beyond clinical care. Up to 80 percent to 90 percent of a person's health is tied to factors other than clinical care.<sup>2</sup>

**These factors, known as the social determinants of health (SDOH), include nutritious food, access to care, safe housing, reliable transportation, and community supports.**

## What is the impact of SDOH?

These underlying drivers of health impact every part of our physical, mental, and social well-being. When they work against someone or are left unaddressed, they create health inequalities — which lead to worse outcomes and more expensive care.

Social factors, including education, racial segregation and bias, social supports, and poverty, can affect a person's risk factors for premature death and life expectancy. SDOH disproportionately impact low-income individuals and minority populations. As SDOH have a significant impact on health outcomes, addressing the impacts of SDOH is essential to the achievement of greater health equity.

## How can I help?

As an AmeriHealth Caritas DC provider, you deliver health care services to our enrollees. Health care providers who serve our enrollees are uniquely positioned to identify and address SDOH, and together we can customize person-centered programs to ensure that our enrollees have the critical support and services they need, so they can make important lifestyle changes and lead healthier, more productive lives.

**When you submit claims, please add the appropriate supplemental ICD-10 diagnosis codes that identify SDOH.** On the next page are examples of ICD-10 codes and descriptions useful for classifying relevant socioeconomic information valuable for population health.

With your help, AmeriHealth Caritas DC will have actionable data and be able to respond to our enrollees' unmet needs.

## Sources

1. J.M. McGinnis, P. Williams-Russo, J.R. Knickman, "The Case for More Active Policy Attention to Health Promotion," *Health Affairs* 21, 2 (2002): 78 – 93. PMID 11900188. See also National Academies Press free publication: *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*.
2. S. Magnan, "Social Determinants of Health 101 for Health Care: Five Plus Five," *NAM Perspectives*, Discussion Paper (Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Medicine, 2017), <https://doi.org/10.31478/201710c>.

**Note:** SDOH should not be used as the admitting or principal diagnosis.

Appropriate coding includes but is not limited to:

Code	Gravity Diagnosis code descriptions
<b>Z55</b>	<b>Problems related to education and literacy (category)</b> <i>Excludes 1: disorder of psychological development (F80-F89)</i>
Z55.5 Z55.51	Less than a high school diploma No general equivalence degree (GED)
<b>Z58</b>	<b>Problems related to physical environment (category)</b> <i>Excludes 2: occupational exposure (Z57.-)</i>
Z58.6 Z58.61	Inadequate drinking-water supply Lack of safe drinking water <i>Excludes 2: deprivation of water (T73.1)</i>
<b>Z59</b>	<b>Problems related to housing and economic circumstances</b> <i>Excludes 2: problems related to upbringing (Z62.-)</i>
<b>Z59.0</b>	<b>Homelessness (category)</b>
Z59.00 Z59.01 Z59.011 Z59.012	Homelessness unspecified Sheltered homelessness Doubled up Living in a shelter such as: motel, temporary or transitional living situation, scattered site housing
Z59.02 Z59.021	Unsheltered homelessness Residing in place not meant for human habitation such as: cars, parks, sidewalk, abandoned buildings
Z59.022	Residing on the street
Z59.4	<b>Lack of adequate food (category)</b> Food Insecurity <i>Excludes 1: effects of hunger (T73.0)</i> <i>Excludes 1: inappropriate diet or eating habits (Z72.4)</i> <i>Excludes 1: malnutrition (E40-E46)</i>
Z59.41 Z59.411 Z59.412 Z59.42 Z59.43 Z59.49	Mild food insecurity Inadequate food Lack of food Moderate food insecurity Severe food insecurity Food insecurity, unspecified
<b>Z59.8</b>	<b>Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances</b>
Z59.801 Z59.802 Z59.803	Foreclosure on loan Isolated dwelling Problems with creditors
Z59.81 Z59.8101 Z59.8102 Z59.811 Z59.81101 Z59.812 Z59.819	<i>Housing instability, housed (subcategory)</i> Past due on rent or mortgage Unwanted multiple moves in the last 12 months Housing instability, housed, with risk of homelessness Imminent risk of homelessness Housing instability, housed, homelessness in past 12 months Housing instability, housed unspecified

Code	Gravity Diagnosis code descriptions
Z59.82 Z59.821 Z59.822 Z59.823 Z59.824 Z59.825 Z59.826 Z59.827	<i>Transportation insecurity (subcategory)</i> Excessive transportation time Inaccessible transportation Inadequate transportation Lack of transportation Unaffordable transportation Unreliable transportation Unsafe transportation
Z59.86 Z59.861 Z59.862 Z59.863 Z59.864 Z59.865 Z59.866 Z59.867 Z59.868	<i>Financial insecurity, not elsewhere classified (subcategory)</i> Bankruptcy Burdensome debt Economic strain Financial strain Medical cost burden Money problems Running out of money Unable to make ends meet <i>Excludes 2: material hardship, not elsewhere classified (Z59.87)</i>
Z59.87 Z59.871 Z59.872 Z59.873 Z59.874 Z59.875	<i>Material hardship, not elsewhere classified (subcategory)</i> Material deprivation Unable to obtain adequate clothing Unable to obtain adequate utilities Unable to obtain adequate childcare Unable to obtain basic needs <i>Excludes 2: financial insecurity, not elsewhere classified (Z59.86)</i>
Z59.89 Z59.91	Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances Isolated dwelling
<b>Z71</b>	<b>Persons encountering health services for other counseling and medical advice, not elsewhere classified</b>
Z71.8 Z71.87	Other specified counseling Encounter for counseling for socioeconomic factors
<b>Z91</b>	<b>Personal risk factors, not elsewhere classified (category)</b>
Z91.1 Z91.11 Z91.110 Z91.118 Z91.119 Z91.19	Patient's noncompliance with medical treatment and regimen Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen due to financial hardship Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen for other reason Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen due to unspecified reason Patient's noncompliance with other medical treatment and regimen nonadherence to medical treatment
Z91.190	Patient's noncompliance with other medical treatment and regimen due to financial hardship
Z91.198	Patient's noncompliance with other medical treatment and regimen for other reason
Z91.199	Patient's noncompliance with other medical treatment and regimen due to unspecified reason
Z91.8 Z91.85	Other specified personal risk factors, not elsewhere classified Personal history of military service <i>Excludes 2: personal history of military deployment (Z91.82)</i>

**A full SDOH assessment can be conducted annually and updates provided at each visit to resolve prior concerns or add new ones. These Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes can be used when reporting: G9919-Screening performed and positive and provision of recommendations; G9920-Screening performed and negative.**

### Questions?

If you have questions, please contact your provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at **202-408-2237**.



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