

FAQs on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Z and G Codes

Does the use of the SDOH Z and G codes apply only to certain types of providers or services?

No, utilization of SDOH Z and G codes is encouraged for all providers for all members.

Can SDOH Z and G codes be used for any patient?

Yes, SDOH Z and G codes can be used for any patient. A patient does not need to have AHCCCS or any other insurance to use these codes.

How do I report Social Determinant of Health Z and G codes?

SDOH Z and G codes are reported according to the same guidelines as all other ICD-10 codes. Per general practice guidelines, diagnoses must be assigned by a provider who can diagnosis a patient. All diagnoses must be documented in the medical record and on the claim for the dates of service they are applicable.

Can SDOH Z and G codes be primary?

SDOH Z and G codes should be submitted according to the ICD-10 guidelines. Please refer to the most current guidelines for those details.

How often are SDOH codes updated?

ICD-10 diagnosis codes are updated on October 1st every year. It is up to every provider to ensure they are utilizing the most current and appropriate diagnoses codes.

Do I have to use a specific screening tool to determine if a patient has an SDOH need?

Providers may use any SDOH screening tool as long as it covers the following eight SDOH needs:

1. Homelessness/housing instability, 2. Food insecurity, 3. Transportation assistance, 4. Employment instability, 5. Utility assistance, 6. Interpersonal safety, 7. Justice/Legal involvement, and 8. Social isolation/Social support.

I screened a patient and they have one or more SDOH needs, do I need to give them a referral for assistance with those needs?

Yes, providers are expected to address the SDOH needs of their patients. Several providers use a Closed-Loop Referral System, like AHCCCS' CommunityCares system to screen members for SDOH needs and refer them to community organizations that can help them with each individual need identified on their screening. If a provider is not using a Closed-Loop Referral System, they shall use a Community Resource Guide with listings of local community organizations that can help members with their SDOH needs, along with how members can contact those organizations for assistance.

Does the use of the DUGLess portal apply only to certain types of providers?

No, the DUGLess is open to any provider who is required to provide this information.

How do I find out more about the DUGLess and how to register to use it?

[Please refer to the DUGLess User Guide posted on this webpage.](#)

If I enter data into the DUGLess do I have to supply information for all the elements included?

Not all, you only need to enter the applicable data, as per members' age and gender.

Does the use of the DUGLess portal apply only to certain types or populations of members?

No, applicable information specific to any member regardless of their AHCCCS eligibility type or enrollment should be updated.