



PROVIDER *bulletin*

November 23, 2021

APL 21-009 Collecting Social Determinants of Health Data

Dear Provider,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released All Plan Letter (APL) 21-009 to provide guidance on using Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) codes to collect reliable SDOH data. Collection of SDOH data is a critical to the success of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), a multi-year program geared at improving health outcomes and quality of life for Medi-Cal beneficiaries through program, broad delivery system, and payment reform.

Providing SDOH information for Kern Health Systems (KHS) members, your patients, will help in identifying the members health, social, and risk needs, ensure members receive the specific services and programs they require, and will assist in care planning and coordination of services.

The DHCS provided 18 “Priority” SDOH ICD-10 codes to aide in identifying SDOH in members.

DHCS Priority SDOH Codes

| Code | Description |
|-------------|--|
| Z55.0 | Illiteracy and low-level literacy |
| Z59.0 | Homelessness |
| Z59.1 | Inadequate housing (lack of heating/space, unsatisfactory surroundings) |
| Z59.3 | Problems related to living in residential institution |
| Z59.4 | Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water |
| Z59.7 | Insufficient social insurance and welfare support |
| Z59.8 | Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances (foreclosure, isolated dwelling, problems with creditors) |
| Z60.2 | Problems related to living alone |
| Z60.4 | Social exclusion and rejection (physical appearance, illness or behavior) |
| Z62.819 | Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood |
| Z63.0 | Problems in relationship with spouse or partner |
| Z63.4 | Disappearance & death of family member (assumed death, bereavement) |
| Z63.5 | Disruption of family by separation and divorce (marital estrangement) |
| Z63.6 | Dependent relative needing care at home |
| Z63.72 | Alcoholism and drug addiction in family |
| Z65.1 | Imprisonment and other incarceration |
| Z65.2 | Problems related to release from prison |
| Z65.8 | Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances (religious or spiritual problem) |



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APL 21-009 contains the full list of all 97 SDOH diagnosis codes. APL 21-009 can be located:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2021/APL21-009.pdf>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Provider Relations Representative at 661-664-5000.

Thank you,

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