



PROVIDER *bulletin*

February 16, 2022

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 collection of SDOH data will also help evaluate the root cause drivers of health disparities amongst your patients.

The DHCS has added 7 more priority SDOH codes, for a total of 25 codes, to aide in identifying SDOH in Managed Medicaid members. Below are the updated SDOH priority codes:

DHCS Priority SDOH Codes

Code	Description
Z55.0	Illiteracy and low-level literacy
Z58.6	<i>Inadequate drinking-water supply</i>
Z59.00	<i>Homelessness unspecified</i>
Z59.01	<i>Sheltered homelessness</i>
Z59.02	<i>Unsheltered homelessness</i>
Z59.1	Inadequate housing (lack of heating/space, unsatisfactory surroundings)
Z59.3	Problems related to living in residential institution
Z59.41	<i>Food insecurity</i>
Z59.48	<i>Other specified lack of adequate food</i>
Z59.7	Insufficient social insurance and welfare support
Z59.811	<i>Housing instability, housed, with risk of homelessness</i>
Z59.812	<i>Housing instability, housed, homelessness in past 12 months</i>
Z59.819	<i>Housing instability, housed unspecified</i>
Z59.89	<i>Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances</i>
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 (*REVISED*) 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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