



BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont

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Specific ICD-10-CM for Food Insecurity and Its Sequelae

BACKGROUND:

There is broad national consensus that assessing the social determinants of health (SDH) is a key facet of improving both individual and population health outcomes. This is represented first in the policy aims of government programs such as Healthy People 2020 (Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020, 2010) and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Accountable Health Communities Project (Alley, Asomugha, Conway, & Sanghavi, 2016; Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, 2017).

Within the social determinants, food insecurity is an established concept of concern. The United State Department of Agriculture publishes a yearly report on the state of food insecurity (Coleman-Jensen, Rabbitt, Gregory, & Singh, 2017). Professional organizations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics have policy statements on the need for social determinant and food insecurity screening and assessment (American Academy of Family Physicians, 2012; American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015; Holben & Marshall, 2017). To aid clinicians in practice, both the AAFP and the AAP have toolkits with specific steps for SDH and food insecurity screening and assessment (American Academy of Family Physicians, 2018; American Academy of Pediatrics & Food Research and Action Center, 2017)

CURRENT ICD-10-CM TABULAR LIST:

Although ICD-10-CM has a code for food and water insufficiency (Z59.4: Lack of adequate food and drinking water), the concepts are joined, which makes tracking of each individual issue impossible. In addition, Z59.4 does not specifically represent the social and economic conditions that are inherent in the United States Department of Agriculture 2017 conceptual and operational definition of food insecurity. Lastly, there is no code to represent when patients with prescribed dietary needs are unable to follow a dietary regimen because of cost.

As we work toward more sensitive and specific screening and assessment for the social determinants of health in clinical practice, specific language for the mature concept of food insecurity is a necessary step.

PROPOSAL:

What we request, to aid patient and population care and study, is to divide Z59.4 into food and water concepts, add a specific Z59 code for the concern of food insecurity, and add a further code in the Z91 series to represent lack of compliance to dietary regimen due to financial hardship, a sequela of food insecurity.

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PROPOSED TABULAR MODIFICATIONS:

Z59.4	Add 5 th digit	Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water
		Z59.4x Inadequate food
		Z59.4x Food insecurity
		Z59.4x Inadequate drinking water supply
Z91.1		Patient's noncompliance with medical treatment and regimen
Z91.11	Add 6 th digit	Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen
		Z91.110 Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen due to financial hardship
Z71.8		Other specified counseling
	Add	Z71.8x Counseling for socioeconomic factors

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SUPPORTED BY:

AAPC Burlington Chapter of Professional Coders (80201)

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Center for Promotion of Child Development Through Primary Care

Children's HealthWatch

Colorado Prevention Alliance

Community Servings, Inc

Connecticut State Medical Society

Department of Vermont Health Access, (Vermont Medicaid) J. Scott Strenio, MD Chief Medical Officer

Excellus (BlueCross Blue Shield New York)

Feeding America

Food is Medicine Coalition

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

Fresh Advantage LLC

Fredric Garner, M.D., Burke Pediatrics LLC

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Health Begins

Raman Nohira, MD

Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, OCHIN

OneCare Vermont, Norman Ward, MD Chief Medical Officer

Oregon Primary Care Association

Regence (BlueCross BlueShield Oregon and Utah)

The Root Cause Coalition

Social Interventions, Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN)

South Boston Community Health Center

The South End Community Health Center

St Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice/PHASE Program at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

University of Vermont Children's Hospital, Lewis First, MD Chief of Pediatrics



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