



HEDIS Social Needs Survey Metric Screening Tools Update

The HEDIS Social Needs Survey (SNS-E) requires that specific tools be used to screen for three SDoH: food, housing, and transportation.

To help providers choose from among the many screening tools available, and to assist with any Electronic Health Record (EHR) builds, we've identified four common tools (below), approved by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), that include questions covering all three required domains. We've also provided additional information on each tool in this document, along with a list of other approved tools.

Common screening tools with required questions for the HEDIS SNS-E metric

Adult Screening Tools ¹	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Transportation
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)	✓	✓	✓
Accountable Health Communities (AHC)	✓	✓	✓
Health Leads	✓	✓	✓
Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE)	✓	✓	✓

¹Adult screening tools may be used in pediatric populations.

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH), such as food, housing, and transportation insecurity, significantly affect health outcomes. Screening for them and providing referrals or assistance to address positive findings is becoming standard healthcare practice.

Reflecting this, metric stewards including the NCQA and some state Medicaid agencies now have metrics designed to help address SDoH. CMS is also now acknowledging the impact of SDoH. More focused work with the Medicare population and SDoH is expected in the near future.



Continued >

Common screening tools: SDoH questions

Approved Screening Tools	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity ¹	Transportation
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)	<p>Within the past 12 months, you worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often true <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes true <input type="checkbox"/> Never true</p> <p>Within the past 12 months, the food you bought just didn't last and you didn't have money to get more.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often true <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes true <input type="checkbox"/> Never true</p>	<p>What is your housing situation today?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not have housing (I am staying with others, in a hotel, in a shelter, living outside on the street, on a beach, in a car, abandoned building, bus or train station, or in a park)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have housing today, but I am worried about losing housing in the future</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have housing</p>	<p>In the past 12 months, has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work or from getting things needed for daily living? (Check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it has kept me from medical appointments or getting medications</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it has kept me from non-medical meetings, appointments, work, or getting things that I need</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
Accountable Health Communities (AHC)	<p>Within the past 12 months, you worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often true <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes true <input type="checkbox"/> Never true</p> <p>Within the past 12 months, the food you bought just didn't last and you didn't have money to get more.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often true <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes true <input type="checkbox"/> Never true</p>	<p>What is your living situation today?²</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a steady place to live</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a steady place to live (I am temporarily staying with others, in a hotel, in a shelter, living outside on the street, on a beach, in a car, abandoned building, bus or train station, or in a park)</p>	<p>In the past 12 months, has lack of reliable transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
Health Leads	<p>In the last 12 months² did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food? Y/N</p>	<p>Are you worried that in the next 2 months, you may not have stable housing? Y/N</p>	<p>In the last 12 months, have you ever had to go without health care because you didn't have a way to get there? Y/N</p>
Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE)	<p>In the past year, have you or any family members you live with been unable to get any of the following when it was really needed? Check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine or Any Health Care (Medical, Dental, Mental Health, Vision) <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write) <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question</p>	<p>What is your housing situation today?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have housing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not have housing (staying with others, in a hotel, in a shelter, living outside on the street, on a beach, in a car, or in a park)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question</p>	<p>Has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living? Check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it has kept me from my medical appointments</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it has getting kept me from non-medical meetings, appointments, work, or from getting things that I need</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question</p>

¹Housing Inadequacy not included.

²Time frames can be altered as needed.

Other approved tools

HEDIS SNS-E Metric (listed by question)

Food Insecurity Instruments

- Hunger Vital Sign¹ (HVS)
- Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)[®]
- US Adult/Child/Household Food Security Surveys (multiple surveys)
- We Care (BMC Thrive)
- WellRx Questionnaire

Housing Instability and Homelessness Instruments

- Children's Health Watch Housing Stability Vital Signs[™]
- We Care (BMC Thrive)
- WellRx Questionnaire

Transportation Insecurity Instruments

- CMS OASIS (various tools)
- Comprehensive Universal Behavior Screen (CUBS)
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI)
- PROMIS
- WellRx Questionnaire

Codes by common tool for screening, positive finding, and intervention

Screening and Positive Finding Codes

Common Approved Screening Tools	Food Insecurity LOINC Codes		Housing Instability/ Homelessness LOINC Codes ¹		Transportation LOINC Codes	
	Screening	Positive Finding	Screening	Positive Finding	Screening	Positive Finding
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)	88122-7 88123-5	LA28397-0 LA6729-3	99550-6 71802-3 (short)	LA31994-9 LA31995-6 ²	99594-4	LA33-6 ³
Accountable Health Communities (AHC)			71802-3		93030-5	
Health Leads	95251-5	LA33-6	99550-6	LA33-6	99553-0	
Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE)	93031-3	LA30125-1	93033-9	LA33-6	93030-5	LA30133-5 LA30134-3
			71802-3	LA30190-5		

Intervention Codes

SDoH Intervention (Procedure) Codes	CPT Codes	Select SNOMED Codes			
Food Insecurity	96156	1759002	385767005	713109004	1004109000
	96160	61310001	710824005	1002223009	1004110005
	96161	103699006	710925007	1002224003	1148446004
	97802	308440001	711069006	1002225002	1162436000
	97803 97804				1230338004
Housing Insecurity/Homelessness ³	96156	308440001	1148446004	1148814008	1156869006
	96160	710824005	1148447008	1148817001	1162436000
	96161	711069006	1148812007	1148818006	1162437009 1230338004
Transportation	96156	308440001	1148446004		
	96160	710824005	1162436000		
	96161	711069006	1230338004		

¹ Housing Inadequacy not included.

² AAFP Short Form Only — Long Form Positive Finding Code LA33-6.

³ AAFP Long Form Only — Short Form Positive Finding Codes LA33093-8, LA30134-3.

Resources

Common screening tools with required questions for HEDIS SNS-E

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

[AAFP.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient_care/everyone_project/hops19-physician-form-sdoh.pdf](https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient_care/everyone_project/hops19-physician-form-sdoh.pdf)

Accountable Health Communities (AHC)

[Innovation.cms.gov/files/worksheets/ahcm-screeningtool.pdf](https://www.innovation.cms.gov/files/worksheets/ahcm-screeningtool.pdf)

Health Leads

[HealthLeadsUSA.org/resources/the-health-leads-screening-toolkit/](https://www.healthleadsusa.org/resources/the-health-leads-screening-toolkit/)

Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE)

[Prapare.org/the-prapare-screening-tool/](https://www.prapare.org/the-prapare-screening-tool/)

Other approved tools

Hunger Vital Sign

[ChildrensHealthWatch.org/public-policy/hunger-vital-sign/](https://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/public-policy/hunger-vital-sign/)

Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)

[SEEKWellbeing.org/](https://www.seekwellbeing.org/)

US Adult/Child/Household Food Security Surveys

[ERS.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/survey-tools/](https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/survey-tools/)

We Care (BMC Thrive)

[SireNetwork.ucsf.edu/sites/default/files/2021-02/BMC-THRIVE.pdf](https://www.sirenetwork.ucsf.edu/sites/default/files/2021-02/BMC-THRIVE.pdf)

WellRx Questionnaire

[SireNetwork.ucsf.edu/tools-resources/resources/wellrx-toolkit](https://www.sirenetwork.ucsf.edu/tools-resources/resources/wellrx-toolkit)

Housing Stability Vital Sign

[ZeroToThree.org/resources/3199-promoting-caregiver-and-child-health-through-housing-stability-screening-in-clinical-settings](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3199-promoting-caregiver-and-child-health-through-housing-stability-screening-in-clinical-settings)

Comprehensive Universal Behavior Screen (CUBS)

[MDLogix.com/for-healthcare-providers/](https://www.mdlogix.com/for-healthcare-providers/)

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI)

[CMS.gov/medicare/quality/inpatient-rehabilitation-facility/irf-pai-and-irf-grp-manual](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/inpatient-rehabilitation-facility/irf-pai-and-irf-grp-manual)

PROMIS

[HealthMeasures.net/explore-measurement-systems/promis](https://www.healthmeasures.net/explore-measurement-systems/promis)

