IPRO QIN-QIO • Healthcentric Advisors • Qlarant

QIN-QIO
Quality Innovation Network -
Quality Improvement Organizations
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
iQUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP

Health Equity

HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

January 2022

The latest health equity news, events and resources to support your efforts to advance health equity and eliminate health disparities.

Recent Updates to the ICD-10-CM Code Set for Coding and Reporting Social Determinants of Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) updated the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) code set with 11 new diagnosis codes to provide additional information when documenting social determinants of health (SDOH). The new codes, included in the FY 2022 ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, became effective October 1, 2021. A total of 165 new diagnosis codes were added for FY2022.

The updated Guidelines also provide clarification on which clinicians may assign SDOH codes in categories Z55-Z65. Code assignment may be based on medical record documentation from clinicians involved in the care of the patient who are not the patient's provider since this information represents social information, rather than medical diagnoses.

The additional Z codes added to the diagnosis classification:

- Category Z55: related to education and literacy
    - Z55.5: Less than a high school diploma
- Category Z58: problems related to physical environment
    - Z58.6: Inadequate drinking-water supply
- Category Z59: problems related to housing and economic circumstances
    - Z59.00: homelessness unspecified
    - Z59.01: homelessness
    - Z50.02: unsheltered homelessness
    - Z59.41: food insecurity
    - Z59.48: other specified lack of adequate food
    - Z59.811: housing instability, housed, with risk of homelessness
    - Z59.812: housing instability, housed, homelessness in past 12 months
    - Z59.819: housing instability, housed unspecified
    - Z59.89: other problems related to housing and economic circumstances

For more information on using Z-Codes to document social determinants of health, view the materials from the IPRO webinar:

Optimal Z Code Utilization & Reimbursement Opportunities.

The webinar presenters discussed the importance of identifying and addressing patients' social risk factors to eliminate health disparities and drive quality improvement, how to document SDOH using Z codes and how to obtain reimbursement.

- Webinar Recording
- Webinar Slides

In the News

HHS and HUD Announce Expanded Partnership to Improve Access to Affordable Housing

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the expansion of an existing partnership established early 2021 to improve access to affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities, older adults, and people experiencing homelessness. The partnership is led by the Administration for Community Living, and includes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The joint venture established the Housing and Services Resource Center that will implement a federal coordinated approach to providing resources, program guidance, training and technical assistance to a variety of programs and organizations that are addressing housing insecurity.

White House Maternal Health Day of Action

The Biden-Harris Administration held a first-ever White House Maternal Health Day of Action on December 7th to announce several initiatives aimed at improving pregnancy outcomes and reducing the risk of maternal and child complications and mortality in the year following birth. The event coincided with the release of an HHS report that found that one in three pregnancy-related deaths occur between one week and one year after childbirth. If passed by Congress, the Build Back Better Act will include a $3 billion investment in maternal health, and would require states to offer Medicaid-covered health services for up to one year post-partum. On December 8th, HHS awarded $82 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to 56 states, jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations for an evidence-based home visiting service targeted to children and families living in communities at risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes. The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rate of any wealthy nation in the world, particularly for women of color.

CMS Funding 1,000 Residency Slots for Hospitals Serving Rural & Underserved Communities

CMS is advancing health equity and health care access by issuing a FY2022 Inpatient Payment System (IPPS) final rule that establishes policies to distribute 1,000 new physician residency slots to qualifying hospitals. Two hundred slots per year will be phased in over 5 years, with the first 200 slots announced by January 2023. CMS will prioritize hospitals with training programs in areas with the greatest need for providers, as determined by Health Professional Shortage Areas. This represents the largest increase in Medicare-funded residency slots in over 25 years and is being implemented as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) approved by Congress in 2021.

For more health equity news: https://qi.ipro.org/health-equity-resources/

Upcoming Events

COVID's Impact on Health Equity and Access to Health & Social Services

A conversation across the RWJF For Actions Programs

S4A: Systems for Action

Date: January 12, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM ET

Righting the Wrongs: Tackling Health Inequities

Hastings Center & AAMC Center for Health Justice

Dates: January 19-20, 2022

Measuring the Impact for Health Equity

National Academy of Medicine

Dates: January 25, 2022
2:00-5:00 PM ET &
January 26, 2022
12:00-2:00 PM ET