

Social Need Markers

What Are They and Why Are They Important?

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are increasingly recognized as essential factors that influence health outcomes, as growing evidence reveals that medical care cannot singularly improve health at a population level.

The addition of Social Need Markers (SNMs) to the ACG System allows users to capture the most pressing health care needs for an individual, measuring social need and barriers to optimal health at the patient level.



The ACG System uses patient-level diagnosis codes and adds critical functionality to understand social and clinical risk within a population.

SOCIAL NEED MARKER DOMAINS

Social Need Markers within the ACG System were developed to give users a comprehensive view of social needs for individuals within their populations, and can be used alone or with other pre-existing ACG System features.

Social Need Markers consist of five domains that capture some of the most documented social needs of individuals coming in contact with health care systems. Each social need domain is a separate marker to identify the prevalence for individuals within their population.

The ACG System has organized individual-level social needs into the following domains:



Social



Education



Health Care System



Economic



Physical Environment

HOW TO USE SOCIAL NEED MARKERS

Given the increasing need to improve overall patient health outcomes, health care organizations and providers are implementing tools to collect social data such as ICD-10 Z-codes, EHR-based screening protocols and patient portal surveys to identify and screen for social needs.

The ACG System's Social Need Markers capture this data and provide actionable insight that can be used in both clinical and population health management settings.

For example, using SNMs, care management teams and social workers can develop interventions and programs to address high-need, high-cost patients.

ICD-10 Z-CODES – WHAT ARE THEY?

The 10th revision of International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) includes Z-codes to describe factors that influence medical conditions and health-related outcomes. These Z-codes are used by providers when coding a patient's diagnosis. The ACG System's Social Need Markers work together with Z-codes to consistently identify patients with social need factors affecting health.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF SOCIAL NEED MARKERS?

The Value for Providers and Clinicians:



Empower providers to enhance their patient profiles to **better understand the potential impact on total cost of care.**



Enable care teams to **develop interventions and programs** that address prominent social needs in their patient population.



Allow health care organizations to **assign maximum resources to specific providers and clinics caring for patients who require additional support** to meet their social needs.



Reduce adverse health outcomes for high-risk patients by developing after-care protocols and follow-up processes.

The Value for Hospitals and Health Systems:



Use Social Need Markers to **identify individuals within patient populations with unmet social needs**, and **prioritize interventions** to satisfy those needs.



Identify the most prevalent and addressable social needs for a patient population, and subsequently **track the effectiveness of intervention programs** developed to combat those deficits.



Develop partnerships with community organizations and other public health resources to meet individuals' social needs within the population more effectively.

A complete population health strategy needs qualified insight into the overall health and well-being of a community. Social Need Markers, paired alongside other ACG System features like ACG GeoHealth, will provide a comprehensive population and patient-level view of social risks.

ABOUT THE JOHNS HOPKINS ACG SYSTEM:

The ACG System is a flexible, transparent set of tools developed and validated by scientists and clinicians at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The ACG System is used by Medicare, Medicaid and commercial health plans in the U.S.; health care providers; and technology companies. Customers use the ACG System to segment their patient populations and to process their organization's existing medical, phar-

macy and lab data to generate clinical risk markers and predictive models at the population and patient level. The ACG System provides health care analytics teams with the insights they need to inform rapid decisions about patient care, resource planning and service design.



To learn more about the ACG System, visit www.hopkinsacg.org or email info@hopkinsacg.org. If you are a current customer needing further guidance on v13.0 features, please contact your account manager.