

Access, Exchange, and Use of Social Determinants of Health Data in Clinical Notes (SDOH)

Asynchronous Patients and Care Partners Focus Group: Focus Group Guide

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Focus Group Interview Guide: Patients/Care Partners Asynchronous (Message board style) groups

Introductory sentences: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention describes social determinants of health as the **conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect their health and quality of life.**

- I. What are Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
 1. Before participating in the group, had you heard of the phrase “Social Determinants of Health”?
 2. What do you think it means?
 3. Can you give some examples of things you think may be Social Determinants of Health?
 4. (Moderator list some: race, ethnicity, preferred language, housing insecurity, food insecurity, social isolation, transportation access, sexual orientation, gender identify, intimate partner violence, veteran status): What do you think of this list? Are there any that you would add?
 5. Can you give any specific examples of the way you think Social Determinants of Health can affect health or health care? (Moderator give some examples if needed to get them talking. For example, how could food insecurity or lack of access to food impact health? How could lack of access to reliable transportation impact health care?)
 6. Do you think it’s important for clinicians to know about some or all of the Social Determinants of Health on this list for their patients? Which ones?

- II. Experiences You’ve Had with Clinicians/Health Systems Asking About Social Determinants of Health
 1. Do you use your clinician’s online patient portal to view your health information or communicate with your clinicians?
 2. Have you (or someone you care for) been asked about any of the Social Determinants of Health we have discussed in this session? (Moderator: “Ask” can be someone directly asking, someone giving you something (paper or electronic) to fill out, a request that you complete something ahead of a visit on the patient portal or paper or otherwise)
 - a. If yes, which ones?
 3. How often are you asked about Social Determinants of Health? At every visit?
 4. Who asks you about them?
 5. In what format are you asked? (in person-orally, on a tablet or computer, kiosk in waiting room, on paper)?
 6. If you fill out a form with Social Determinants of Health questions (paper or electronic) does the clinician discuss it with you?
 7. If you don’t fill out a form, does the clinician you are seeing discuss Social Determinants of Health with you?
 8. Are you given opportunities to “tell your story” as it relates to Social Determinants of Health or are you asked only structured questions?
 9. Have you ever been told why you are being asked these types of questions?

10. Have you ever been told you can choose to answer or not answer these types of questions?

III. What Kind of Social Determinants of Health Information Would You Feel Comfortable Having in the Medical Record

1. Do you know if your clinician/clinician's office is documenting your responses in your medical record? (For example, they may have told you the information goes in the medical record or you may have seen it on the patient portal or in printed information from the clinic) What is your reaction to this possibility/how does that make you feel? Do you agree or disagree with the information being documented?
2. Do you think it is important to record this information in your medical record?
 - a. If yes, why? If no, why not? (Probe if needed: all of it? Some of it?)
3. Do you have any concerns about recording it in the record?
 - a. What if you knew that the information would be shared with other clinicians involved in your care? Do you think this information should be available to all or some of the clinicians involved in your care?
 - I. Why or why not?
 - b. If you think some of the Social Determinants of Health information should be shared and some shouldn't be, which types do you think should be and why?
 - c. Would giving your permission to share the information with specific clinicians make you more comfortable with sharing your Social Determinants of Health information?
4. What kind of Social Determinants of Health information would you feel comfortable discussing vs. being documented?

IV. Preference for how Social Determinants of Health Information is Collected

1. How would you like Social Determinants of Health information to be collected?
 - a. During the visit with someone directly asking the questions?
 - b. In the clinic via tablet, kiosk, computer, or paper form?
 - c. Before the visit by questionnaire online in the patient portal?
 - d. Other?
 - e. If you prefer a person directly asking, who would you feel most comfortable talking to about this?

V. *Final question:* Do you have any thoughts on the term Social Determinants of Health and if there are other terms that you think would be clearer to patients?

VI. Parking Lot Questions for Patient Groups if Have Time:

1. How do you think clinicians should utilize Social Determinants of Health information?
2. Have you ever seen your story/responses as documented by the clinician? What did you think?
3. Would you be willing to use apps to send Social Determinants of Health information to your clinicians?

