

Screening for Social Drivers of Health Measure and the Screen Positive to Social Drivers of Health Measure

In the FY 2023 IPPS/LTCH PPS proposed rule, CMS proposed that hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program be required to report on two new measures, the Screening for Social Drivers of Health Measure and the Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health.

Performance Measure Name: Screening for Social Drivers of Health

Description: If finalized, this measure would assess whether a hospital implements screening for all patients that are 18 years or older at time of admission for food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties and interpersonal safety. To report on this measure, hospitals would provide: (1) The number of inpatients admitted to hospital who are 18 years or older at time of admission and who are screened for each of the five HRSNs: Food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties, and interpersonal safety; and (2) the total number of patients who are admitted to the hospital who are 18 years or older on the date they are admitted.

Measure Numerator: The numerator consists of the number of patients admitted to an inpatient hospital stay who are 18 years or older on the date of admission and are screened for one or all of the following five HRSNs: Food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties, and interpersonal safety during their hospital inpatient stay.

Measure Denominator: The denominator consists of the number of patients who are admitted to a hospital inpatient stay and who are 18 years or older on the date of admission.

Exclusions: The following patients would be excluded from the denominator: (1) Patients who opt-out of screening; and (2) patients who are themselves unable to complete the screening during their inpatient stay and have no legal guardian or caregiver able to do so on the patient's behalf during their inpatient stay.

Clarifying Information: The Screening for Social Drivers of Health measure would be calculated as the number of patients admitted to an inpatient hospital stay who are 18 years or older on the date of admission screened for one or all five HRSNs (food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties, and interpersonal safety) divided by the total number of patients 18 years or older on the date of admission admitted to the hospital. Hospitals would report using their CCN through the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System.

Performance Measure Name: Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health

Description: If finalized, the Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health would provide information on the percent of patients admitted for an inpatient hospital stay and who are 18 years or older on the date of admission, were screened for an HSRN, and who screen positive for one or more of the following five HRSNs: Food insecurity, housing instability, transportation problems, utility difficulties, or interpersonal safety.

Measure Numerator: The numerator consists of the number of patients admitted for an inpatient hospital stay who are 18 years or older on the date of admission, who were screened for an HSRN, and who screen positive for having a need in one or more of the following five HRSNs (calculated separately): Food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties or interpersonal safety.

Measure Denominator: The denominator consists of the number of patients admitted for an inpatient hospital stay who are 18 years or older on the date of admission and are screened for an HSRN (food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties and interpersonal safety) during their hospital inpatient stay.

Exclusions: The following patients would be excluded from the denominator: 1) Patients who opt-out of screening; and 2) patients who are themselves unable to complete the screening during their inpatient stay and have no caregiver able to do so on the patient’s behalf during their inpatient stay.

Clarifying Information: The result of this measure would be calculated as five separate rates. Each rate is derived from the number of patients admitted for an inpatient hospital stay and who are 18 years or older on the date of admission, screened for an HRSN, and who screen positive for each of the five HRSNs—food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, utility difficulties, or interpersonal safety—divided by the total number of patients 18 years or older on the date of admission screened for all five HRSNs.

Additional Resources:

For more information about the CMMI Accountable Health Communities Model screening tool and case studies about implementing SDOH screening: <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/ahcm>

For a listing of various screening tools, including those that include the five SDOH domains specified in the measure:

<https://sirenetwork.ucsf.edu/tools-resources/resources/screening-tools-comparison>