Current and Emerging Strategies to Document Food Insecurity… Language Matters
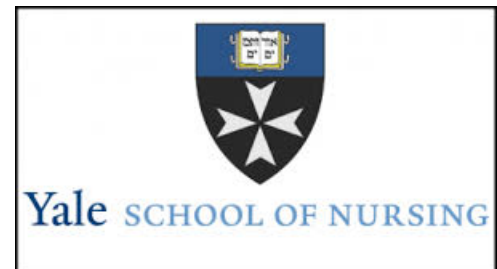
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Food Insecurity Coding- Topics

- Language Development
- Coding utilization
- EHR building tips from the field

Language Development-
Finding Meaningful Data for Complex Problems

- For some time we have lacked specific language to mark the assessment of key social determinants of health (SDH): food insecurity, housing instability, transportation needs, etc..

- Over the last year a group of Health Information Technology and social determinant content experts have joined forces to map existing coding capacity and plan for filling gaps…

- At the table are representatives of the Hunger Vital Sign™ National Community of Practice

  - The Hunger Vital Sign™ National Community of Practice is a national trans-professional workgroup that focuses on evidenced based strategies for assessing and addressing food insecurity in clinical practice

- ***Food insecurity was one of the first concepts addressed***

Language Development-
Food Insecurity is a problem...

- The work of language development in healthcare is most swiftly evident in the power of the problem list
- ICD Codes drive the billing and the e-bill
- In the US, **the problem list** is fed by SNOMED CT codes as part of meaningful EHR use
- SNOMED CT is an international, "collaboratively developed" clinical terminology
- As opposed to ICD, SNOMED is open sourced, vetted by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), and then approved by SNOMED International
- In April of last year they applied for a SNOMED CT code for food insecurity through the NLM
- ***It was approved and is now part of your EHR***

Food Insecurity is a problem…

One important thing about problems in the problem list is they do not go away until the clinician resolves them…

This makes the problem list a perfect place to revisit chronic complex concerns such as food insecurity and other social determinants

Coding Utilization

- In addition to developing new codes, part of this project focuses on maximizing the use of *existing codes* to screen, assess, and intervene on the SDH

- This work has 2 facets
  - Coding employment- SNOMED CT for referral and intervention (demonstrated on future slides)
  - Coding advocacy- Health Risk Assessment CPT

Coding Utilization- CPT Advocacy

- Jan 2017 the American Medical Association released 2 new codes for health risk assessment

- **96160** -Administration of patient-focused health risk assessment instrument (eg, health hazard appraisal) with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument
  - This replaced 99420

- **96161**- Administration of caregiver-focused health risk assessment instrument (eg, depression inventory) for the benefit of the patient, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument

Coding Utilization- CPT Advocacy

- Members of the Hunger Vital Sign™ National Community of Practice identified that screening with the Hunger Vital Sign™ met the intent of the new CPT

- They worked with the American Medical Association, Vermont Medicaid, and the American Academy of Pediatrics to verify application

- In Vermont, as of last week, we are approved for use of 96160 and 96160 for food insecurity screening with the Hunger Vital Sign™ for Medicaid patients

- They are in conversation with VT Blue Cross Blue Shield

Coding Tables... Quick and Easy

Screening

Screening the Patient- (Adolescents)	Screening the Caregiver
96160 -Administration of patient-focused health risk assessment instrument (eg, health hazard appraisal) with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	**96161**- Administration of caregiver-focused health risk assessment instrument (eg, depression inventory) for the benefit of the patient, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument

Assessment

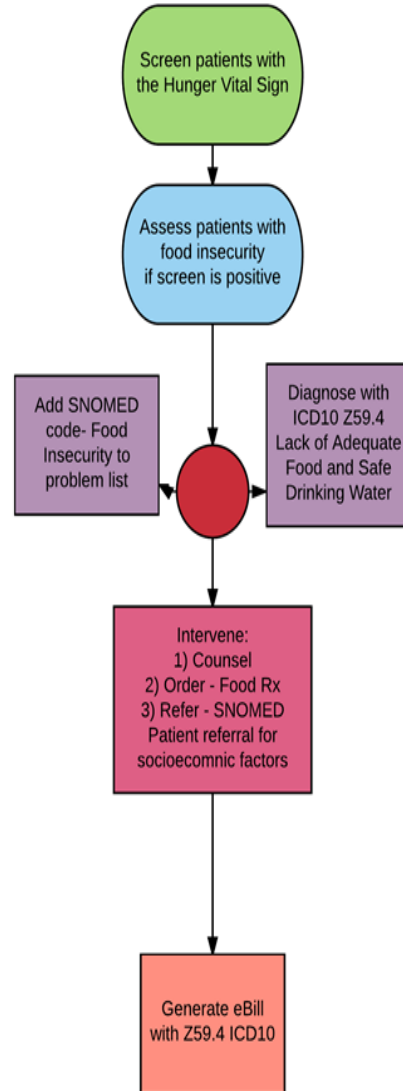| ICD 10- ebill and claims	SNOMED CT- problem list
Not currently mapped to ICD but pending	**Food Insecurity** **733423003**
Z59.4 Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water	Insufficient Food Supply 706875005

Intervention

CPT	ICD	SNOMED CT
		Referral- Patient referral for socioeconomic factors 41920009
		Referral- Referral to community meals service 713109004
Counsel Codes 99401-99401 (however these cannot be used with preventative codes E/M codes)	Z71.89 Other specified counsel	Counsel- Food, education, guidance, and counsel 410293007
		Food RX- Provision of food 710925007

Screening- Future State

- LOINC Codes- as with labs, all validated screens can have the questions and answers encoded... This allows for easier reporting and data sharing...
  - An application for the Hunger Vital Sign™ is in review

Current Coding Process in an Office Visit

Screen patients with the Hunger Vital Sign

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Assess patients with food insecurity if screen is positive

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Add SNOMED code- Food Insecurity to problem list ← ● → **Diagnose with ICD10 Z59.4 Lack of Adequate Food and Safe Drinking Water**

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Intervene:
1) Counsel
2) Order - Food Rx
3) Refer - SNOMED Patient referral for socioecomnic factors

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Generate eBill with Z59.4 ICD10

Food Insecurity Coding Opportunities

Hunger Vital Sign LOINC code

Food insecurity specific ICD10

SNOMED: Counsel codes for socioeconomic factors; food insecurity referal codes food prescription codes

DEVELOP food insecurity and food insecurity screening CPT, CPTII and HCPCS EXPAND use of Health Risk Assessment CPT

Tips From the Field- EHR Builds

- Document Screening- Build common documents and flowsheets, shared by all professions (nursing, case management, providers, nutrition) for tracking screening food insecurity and other social determinants

- Document Interventions- encode referrals and interventions

- Document Assessment- place results of key screens in social histories **and *make sure to document in problems lists***

- *UVM Children's Hospital in-patient screening project*

References

- American Academy of Pediatrics (2017) *Guide to preventative care, 2017.* Retrieved from: https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/coding_preventive_care.pdf

- American Academy of Pediatrics Division of Healthcare Finance (2016) *CPT code changes for health risk assessments take effect Jan. 1. http://www.aappublications.org/news/2016/11/04/Coding110416*

- Regenstrief (2017) About LOINC. Retrieved from: https://loinc.org/about/

- US National Library of Medicine (2017) *Overview of SNOMED CT.* Retrieved from: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/healthit/snomedct/snomed_overview.html