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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening the Patient- (Adolescents)</th>
<th>Screening the Caregiver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>96160</strong> - Administration of patient-focused health risk assessment instrument (e.g., health hazard appraisal) with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument</td>
<td><strong>96161</strong> - Administration of caregiver-focused health risk assessment instrument (e.g., depression inventory) for the benefit of the patient, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD 10- ebill and claims</th>
<th>SNOMED CT- problem list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Not currently mapped to ICD but pending</em></td>
<td><strong>Food Insecurity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>733423003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z59.4 Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water</td>
<td><strong>Insufficient Food Supply</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>706875005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Intervention

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

Assess patients with food insecurity if screen is positive

Add SNOMED code- Food Insecurity to problem list

Diagnose with ICD10 Z59.4 Lack of Adequate Food and Safe Drinking Water

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

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 referral 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


