

## Documentation and Coding Tips

## Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) and Z Diagnosis Coding

**The Journey to Better Patient-Centered Outcomes...Code It and Track Patient Needs!**

- There are socioeconomic factors that can affect a person's health, including both environmental and societal conditions such as education and literacy, employment, health behaviors, housing, lack of adequate food or water, occupational exposure to risk factors, social support, transportation, and violence.
- Tracking these social needs that impact patients allows providers to identify trends to:
  - Enhance patient care.
  - Improve care coordination and referrals.
  - Support quality measurement.
  - Identify community/population needs.
  - Support planning and implementation of social needs interventions.
  - Monitor SDoH intervention effectiveness.
- Because the SDoH Z diagnosis codes in these categories represent social information, rather than medical diagnoses, they can be assigned based on documentation by nonphysician clinicians involved in the care of these patients. Self-reported documentation from the patient, if the information is approved and incorporated into the medical record by a clinician or provider, can be reported as well.
- SDoH data may be documented in the problem list, patient history, diagnosis list or provider notes.
- These SDoH Z diagnosis codes are supplemental diagnosis codes and should not be used as the admitting or principal diagnosis to indicate the medical reason for the visit. Always assign all relevant SDoH Z diagnosis codes to paint the true picture of the patient's needs and situation.
- Identify workflows to minimize staff burden and define what roles each team member will play. Some examples, coders can easily assign these codes based on self-reported data and/or information documented by any member of the care team if their documentation is included in the official medical record. Pre-visit Planning teams can capture this information prior to the patient's visit.
- Implement standardized questions, for example, regarding housing stability, food security and access to transportation as part of your currently required health risk assessments. This is an additional reminder for providers to capture these codes during patient visits.
- Work with your system vendor to add these SDoH Z diagnosis codes below into your EMR.

Z55-Problems related to Education and Literacy	
ICD.10 Z Code Description	ICD.10 Z Code
Illiteracy and low-level literacy	Z55.0
Schooling unavailable and unattainable	Z55.1
Failed school examinations	Z55.2
Underachievement in school	Z55.3
Educational maladjustment and discord with teachers and classmates	Z55.4
Less than a high school diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No general equivalence degree (GED)</li> </ul>	Z55.5
Problems related to health literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty understanding health related information</li> <li>Difficulty understanding medication instructions</li> <li>Problem completing medical forms</li> </ul>	Z55.6
Other problems related to education and literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Problems related to inadequate teaching</li> </ul>	Z55.8
Problems related to education and literacy, unspecified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic problems</li> </ul>	Z55.9
Z56-Problems related to Employment and Unemployment	
Unemployment, unspecified	Z56.0
Change of job	Z56.1
Threat of job loss	Z56.2
Stressful work schedule	Z56.3
Discord with boss and workmates	Z56.4
Uncongenial work environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficult conditions at work</li> </ul>	Z56.5
Other physical and mental strain related to work	Z56.6
Other problems related to employment	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Sexual harassment on the job	Z56.81
Military deployment status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual (civilian or military) currently deployed in theater or in support of military war, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations</li> </ul>	Z56.82
Other problems related to employment	Z56.89
Unspecified problems related to employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational problems NOS</li> </ul>	Z56.9
Z57-Occupational exposure to risk factors	
Occupational exposure to noise	Z57.0
Occupational exposure to radiation	Z57.1
Occupational exposure to dust	Z57.2
Occupational exposure to other air contaminants	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke	Z57.31
Occupational exposure to other air contaminants	Z57.39
Occupational exposure to toxic agents in agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational exposure to solids, liquids, gases, or vapors in agriculture</li> </ul>	Z57.4
Occupational exposure to toxic agents in other industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational exposure to solids, liquids, gases, or vapors in other industries</li> </ul>	Z57.5

Occupational exposure to extreme temperature	Z57.6
Occupational exposure to vibration	Z57.7
Occupational exposure to other risk factors	Z57.8
Occupational exposure to unspecified risk factor	Z57.9
<b>Z58-Problems related to physical environment</b>	
Inadequate drinking-water supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of safe drinking water</li> </ul>	Z58.6
Other problems related to physical environment	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Basic services unavailable in physical environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to obtain internet service, due to unavailability in geographic area</li> <li>Unable to obtain telephone service, due to unavailability in geographic area</li> <li>Unable to obtain utilities, due to inadequate physical environment</li> </ul>	Z58.81
Other problems related to physical environment	Z58.89
<b>Z59-Problems related to housing and economic circumstances</b>	
Homelessness	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Homelessness unspecified	Z59.00
Sheltered homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doubled up</li> <li>Living in a shelter such as: motel, scattered site housing, temporary or transitional living situation</li> </ul>	Z59.01
Unsheltered homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residing in place not meant for human habitation such as: abandoned buildings, cars, parks, sidewalk</li> <li>Residing on the street</li> </ul>	Z59.02
Inadequate housing	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Inadequate housing, unspecified	Z59.10
Inadequate housing environmental temperature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of air conditioning</li> <li>Lack of heating</li> </ul>	Z59.11
Inadequate housing utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of electricity services</li> <li>Lack of gas services</li> <li>Lack of oil services</li> <li>Lack of water services</li> </ul>	Z59.12
Other inadequate housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pest infestation</li> <li>Restriction of space</li> <li>Technical defects in home preventing adequate care</li> <li>Unsatisfactory surroundings</li> </ul>	Z59.19
Discord with neighbors, lodgers, and landlord	Z59.2
Problems related to living in residential institution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boarding-school resident</li> </ul>	Z59.3
Lack of adequate food	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Food insecurity	Z59.41
Other specified lack of adequate food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate food</li> <li>Lack of food</li> </ul>	Z59.48

Extreme poverty	Z59.5
Low income	Z59.6
Insufficient social insurance and welfare support	Z59.7
Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances	See 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Housing instability, housed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreclosure on home loan</li> <li>Past due on rent or mortgage</li> <li>Unwanted multiple moves in the last 12 months</li> </ul>	Z59.81
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing instability, housed, with risk of homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imminent risk of homelessness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Z59.811
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing instability, housed, homelessness in past 12 months</li> </ul>	Z59.812
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing instability, housed unspecified</li> </ul>	Z59.819
Transportation insecurity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive transportation time</li> <li>Inaccessible transportation</li> <li>Inadequate transportation</li> <li>Lack of transportation</li> <li>Unaffordable transportation</li> <li>Unreliable transportation</li> <li>Unsafe transportation</li> </ul>	Z59.82
Financial insecurity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bankruptcy</li> <li>Burdensome debt</li> <li>Economic strain</li> <li>Financial strain</li> <li>Money problems</li> <li>Running out of money</li> <li>Unable to make ends meet</li> </ul>	Z59.86
Material hardship due to limited financial resources, not elsewhere classified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material deprivation due to limited financial resources</li> <li>Unable to obtain adequate childcare due to limited financial resources</li> <li>Unable to obtain adequate clothing due to limited financial resources</li> <li>Unable to obtain adequate utilities due to limited financial resources</li> <li>Unable to obtain basic needs due to limited financial resources</li> </ul>	Z59.87
Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreclosure on home</li> <li>Isolated dwelling</li> <li>Problems with creditors</li> </ul>	Z59.89
Problems related to housing and economic circumstances, unspecified	Z59.9
<b>Z60-Problems related to social environment</b>	
Problems of adjustment to life-cycle transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empty nest syndrome</li> <li>Phase of life problem</li> <li>Problem with adjustment to retirement [pension]</li> </ul>	Z60.0
Problems related to living alone	Z60.2
Acculturation difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Problem with migration</li> <li>Problem with social transplantation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEF: Problem adapting to a different culture or environment not based on any coexisting medical disorder</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Z60.3

Social exclusion and rejection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusion and rejection on the basis of personal characteristics, such as unusual physical appearance, illness or behavior</li> <li>Social isolation</li> </ul>	Z60.4
Target of (perceived) adverse discrimination and persecution	Z60.5
Other problems related to social environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate social support</li> <li>Lack of emotional support</li> </ul>	Z60.8
Problem related to social environment, unspecified	Z60.9
<b>Z62-Problems related to upbringing</b>	
Inadequate parental supervision and control	Z62.0
Parental overprotection	Z62.1
Upbringing away from parents	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Child in welfare custody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child in foster care</li> <li>Child in welfare guardianship</li> </ul>	Z62.21
Institutional upbringing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child living in group home</li> <li>Child living in orphanage</li> </ul>	Z62.22
Child in custody of non-parental relative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child in care of non-parental family member</li> <li>Child in custody of grandparent</li> <li>Child in kinship care</li> <li>Guardianship by non-parental relative</li> </ul>	Z62.23
Child in custody of non-relative guardian	Z62.24
Other upbringing away from parents	Z62.29
Hostility towards and scapegoating of child	Z62.3
Inappropriate (excessive) parental pressure	Z62.6
Other specified problems related to upbringing	See 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Personal history of abuse in childhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal history of abuse in adolescence</li> </ul>	Z62.81
Personal history of physical and sexual abuse in childhood	Z62.810
Personal history of psychological abuse in childhood	Z62.811
Personal history of neglect in childhood	Z62.812
Personal history of forced labor or sexual exploitation in childhood	Z62.813
Personal history of child financial abuse	Z62.814
Personal history of intimate partner abuse in childhood	Z62.815
Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood	Z62.819
Parent-child conflict	See 6 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Parent-biological child conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent-child problem NOS</li> </ul>	Z62.820
Parent-adopted child conflict	Z62.821
Parent-foster child conflict	Z62.822
Parent-step child conflict	Z62.823
Non-parental relative or guardian-child conflict	See 6 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Non-parental relative-child conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grandparent-child conflict</li> <li>Kinship-care child conflict</li> </ul>	Z62.831

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-parental relative legal guardian-child conflict</li> <li>Other relative-child conflict</li> </ul>	
Non-relative guardian-child conflict	Z62.832
Group home staff-child conflict	Z62.833
Other specified problems related to upbringing	See 6 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Parent-child estrangement NEC	Z62.890
Sibling rivalry	Z62.891
Runaway (from current living environment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child leaving living situation without permission</li> </ul>	Z62.892
Other specified problems related to upbringing	Z62.898
Problems related to upbringing, unspecified	Z62.9
<b>Z63-Other problems related to primary support group, including family circumstances</b>	
Problems in relationship with spouse or partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship distress with spouse or intimate partner</li> </ul>	Z63.0
Problems in relationship with in-laws	Z63.1
Absence of family member	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Absence of family member due to military deployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual or family affected by other family member being on military deployment</li> </ul>	Z63.31
Other absence of family member	Z63.32
Disappearance and death of family member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumed death of family member</li> <li>Bereavement</li> </ul>	Z63.4
Disruption of family by separation and divorce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marital estrangement</li> </ul>	Z63.5
Dependent relative needing care at home	Z63.6
Other stressful life events affecting family and household	See 5 <sup>th</sup> digit codes below
Stress on family due to return of family member from military deployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual or family affected by family member having returned from military deployment (current or past conflict)</li> </ul>	Z63.71
Alcoholism and drug addiction in family	Z63.72
Other stressful life events affecting family and household <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anxiety (normal) about sick person in family</li> <li>Health problems within family</li> <li>Ill or disturbed family member</li> <li>Isolated family</li> </ul>	Z63.79
Other specified problems related to primary support group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family discord NOS</li> <li>Family estrangement NOS</li> <li>High expressed emotional level within family</li> <li>Inadequate family support NOS</li> <li>Inadequate or distorted communication within family</li> </ul>	Z63.8
Problem related to primary support group, unspecified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship disorder NOS</li> </ul>	Z63.9
<b>Z64-Problems related to certain psychosocial circumstances</b>	
Problems related to unwanted pregnancy	Z64.0
Problems related to multiparity	Z64.1
Discord with counselors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discord with probation officer</li> </ul>	Z64.4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discord with social worker</li> </ul>	
<b>Z65-Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances</b>	
Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment	Z65.0
Imprisonment and other incarceration	Z65.1
Problems related to release from prison	Z65.2
Problems related to other legal circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrest</li> <li>Child custody or support proceedings</li> <li>Litigation</li> <li>Prosecution</li> </ul>	Z65.3
Victim of crime and terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victim of torture</li> </ul>	Z65.4
Exposure to disaster, war, and other hostilities	Z65.5
Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At risk for feeling loneliness</li> <li>Religious or spiritual problem</li> </ul>	Z65.8
Problem related to unspecified psychosocial circumstances	Z65.9