

SDOH & Health Equity Info Sheet

Have questions about SDOH & Health Equity? Below are some expert insights from our recent Q&A webinar on the topic.

1

What are the differences between Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and Health Equity within Value-Based Care?

Health Equity is about providing the same standard of health outcomes and care for all. It's about reaching the highest level of health for all people regardless of race, income, education, culture, etc. Health equity is an overarching umbrella for SDOH. Another way to view it is that Health Equity is a focus on overall desired outcomes, while SDOH identifies the potential obstacles that need to be addressed in order to achieve better and more equitable overall health outcomes.

SDOH is a specific part of health equity. Utilizing demographic data to create actions for populations that may have obstacles to adequate care. The 5 key SDOH variables include social context (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, veteran status), economic context (e.g., income, unemployment rate), education, physical infrastructure (e.g., housing, crime, transportation), and healthcare context (e.g., health insurance).

CMS is currently the driving force behind industry change, with CMS Value-Based Care (VBC) models tying SDOH and Health Equity into progressive requirements and measures. For example, the ACO REACH model has health equity and reporting standards.

Both SDOH and Equity will undoubtedly be a larger part of success with VBC models. For example, next year there will be a concentrated focus on SDOH reporting measures. ACOs can improve quality scores by up to 10% with thorough SDOH reporting.

2

What key analytics & metrics are vital to addressing SDOH in Value-Based Care models?

Demographic data based on census block codes is vital. This fuels the decision-making engine to understand your populations quickly and effectively with potential barriers to care. In addition, SDOH Assessment Data is important to collect, track, and analyze. Patient and Community data combined tells an important story and enables you to act.

“Connected Care” claims data is also critical. If you are currently in a value-based model, find a company like Acclivity to ensure you are accessing, aggregating, and utilizing this data on your at-risk populations.

Coding is a crucial part of SDOH and Health Equity regarding value-based care reimbursements. For example, Z-Codes (SDOH) are often forgotten or lost within an EHR. Less than 2% of the time, Z-Codes are utilized.

3

What key analytics and metrics are vital to addressing Health Equity in Value-Based Care models?

- At-risk claims data is aggregated with EHR data to identify key populations that have been underserved. An analytics tool with risk stratification/cohort builder is a good start.
- Determine how much of your total population falls in the underserved category.
- Break this population down into subgroups. Get as specific as possible to make sure you are targeting the individuals in the right sub-populations.
- Track & Report outcomes, especially cost and utilization outcomes.

4

Where would you suggest starting to improve Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity for members and patients?

Step 1: Start with a business case – Is this a mission, compliance, quality, or financial focus?

Step 2: Identify patient populations in underserved communities and outcomes you want to improve

Step 3: Stay unified around those focus areas and sought after outcomes

Step 4: Act, Track, and Report properly

5

How does Acclivity Health help ACOs, Providers and Post Acute organizations with SDOH and Health Equity to create better value-based care success?

- We offer market prevalence data based on census block codes (more than just zip code) to provide neighborhood level, census block level, education level, and poverty level information.
- Technology & Analytics including: Risk Stratification, TCM & CCM workflows, Utilization Management Tools, RX Compliance, Cost Management & Predictions, Quality Improvement Tools, and more.
- Subject matter expertise through our Value-Based Care experts, our healthcare economists & clinical experts, and our Connected Care relationships & consultants.
- Comprehensive Data Aggregation capabilities that consolidate data from patients, communities, claims, and other sources.

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