The Gravity Project
Accelerating National Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Data Standards

What is the Gravity Project?
Launched in May 2019 by the [Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network](#) (SIREN) with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the [Gravity Project](#) is a national open public collaborative that is developing data standards to help reduce current barriers for documenting and exchanging social risk and protective factors within health care and other sectors. In August 2019, the Gravity Project became an official [HL7 FHIR Accelerator Project](#)

The Gravity Project convenes multi-stakeholder groups from across the health and human services sectors through an open and transparent collaborative process where they develop and test consensus-based standards to facilitate [social determinants of health](#) (SDOH) data capture, exchange, and use across a variety of systems and settings of care and social services. The Gravity Project is agnostic to the screening tools (e.g., PRAPARE, AHC Screener, Health Leads) and data capture systems (e.g., electronic health record platforms, community-referral platforms, care coordination systems) used in the field to collect, exchange, and aggregate SDOH data.

Project Accomplishments
Since May 2019, over 2,000 stakeholders across the health care, health IT, community-based, federal and state agency, payer, academic, and consumer advocacy sectors have signed up as [members of the Gravity Project](#). Key project accomplishments and target milestones over the past year are:

- **Multi-domain SDOH data set development.** To date, the Gravity Project completed the development of consensus approved, expert-driven, evidence-based data sets for [14 SDOH domains](#): food insecurity, housing instability, homelessness, inadequate housing, transportation insecurity, veteran status, less than a high school education, unemployment, financial insecurity, material hardship, psychological stress, social connectedness, elder abuse, and intimate partner violence. Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Gravity Project will work on new domains that align with [Healthy People 2030](#) objectives and health equity priorities. These include health literacy, under insurance, medical cost burden, neighborhood safety, food access, minority strain, and measures of discrimination and bias.
- **SDOH Value Sets published in VSAC.** In November 2021, the National Library of Medicine published the first [Gravity Project value sets](#) for completed SDOH domains. These are now available for implementation and reference for US quality measure development and US health data policy.
- **ONC USCDI SDOH Data Class Submission**. On July 9, 2021, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) officially [announced](#) the inclusion of the SDOH data class to the [United States Core for Data Interoperability (USCD) V2](#). This addition provides health IT stakeholders nationwide clear direction toward standardized electronic exchange of SDOH. It also lays the foundation for the provider community to start systemizing the capture and use of this data in clinical settings and to adopt health IT that supports the activities.
- **Multi-domain SDOH ICD-10 CM Code Submission**. In December 2020, the Gravity Project submitted its [multi-domain ICD-10 CM submission](#) representing a year and a half of collective labor. The submission was presented to the ICD-10 CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee on March 10th, 2021 and new and updated education, food insecurity, and housing ICD-10 CM codes were approved for [implementation beginning Oct. 1, 2021](#).

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- **HL7 SDOH Clinical Care FHIR Implementation Guide & Reference Implementation**. The Gravity Project submitted its first FHIR IG for ballot as part of the HL7 January 2021 ballot cycle and completed ballot reconciliation and the development of a reference implementation in June 2021. The ballot was published as a HL7 Standard for Trial Use (STU) version 1 in August 2021. An updated version of this IG was balloted in January 2022 and target for publication in June 2022.
- **FHIR Connectathons.** The Gravity Technical team regularly participates in scheduled HL7 FHIR Connectathons. In 2021, the Gravity Technical team hosted an SDOH FHIR Track at the July CMS Connectathon.
- **CMS State Health Official Letter Integration.** On January 7, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance for States on opportunities under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to address SDOH. The guidance encourages states to review and participate in the Gravity Project as they work towards designing and implementing interoperable data integration and data sharing systems.
- **Federal Grant Integration.** In 2021, Gravity standards were included in three Federal Grant programs: Administration for Community Living Social Care Referrals Challenge, ONC Leading Edge Acceleration Projects (LEAP) Referral Management to Address SDOH Aligned with Clinical Care, and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Human Services Interoperability Innovation Grant.

Upcoming Activities

The Gravity Project will facilitate the testing and validation of the Gravity terminology and technical standards through real-world pilots in 2022. We anticipate pilots will advance the maturity of the SDOH Clinical Care FHIR IG and validate coded SDOH data elements. If you are interested in learning more about the pilots, please email: gravityproject@emiadvisors.net

To learn more about the Gravity Project, please visit: https://thegravityproject.net/

For more information on the multi-SDOH domain ICD-10 CM submission, please visit: https://confluence.hl7.org/display/GRAV/ICD-10+Coding+Submissions

To view the latest consensus voted master datasets by SDOH domain, please visit: https://confluence.hl7.org/display/GRAV/Terminology+Workstream+Dashboard

For more information on the HL7 FHIR Accelerator Program, please visit: https://www.hl7.org/about/fhir-accelerator/