Gravity Project and AMA Collaborate on New Resource for the Documentation of Social Risks

ANN ARBOR, MI October 17, 2023 - Gravity Project and the American Medical Association (AMA) announced the first of a series of resources to assist in documenting social risks after the application of nationally implemented screening assessment instruments.

Working collaboratively, Gravity Project and AMA created an initial documentation resource focused on suggesting ICD-10-CM and SNOMED CT® codes for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool (AHC HRSN Screening Tool). The resource provides suggested codes for exact questions on the AHC HRSN Screening Tool as well as suggested codes for additional, more specific social risk dimensions and causes that could arise from further discussion with the individual being screened.

“As the ecosystem prepares for reporting on the CMS Social Drivers of Health Measures in 2024, many implementers have turned to Gravity Project for guidance on how to document measure-aligned positive social risk findings with Gravity Project social care data standards,” said Sarah DeSilvey, Gravity Project’s terminology director & pilots and implementation lead. “It is our honor to assist the community at large with this resource, an example of the breadth of evidence-based terms Gravity Project has crafted through our consensus process.”

The AHC HRSN Screening Tool was selected as a single example for this resource, as it satisfies the domain requirements for the CMS Inpatient Quality Reporting Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) measures. Neither AMA nor Gravity Project endorse the AHC HRSN Screening Tool or any screening tool or standard of care over another.

“Scalable, automated tools to encode health-related social risk data with ICD-10-CM and SNOMED CT are a critical step in identifying and addressing evidence-based social risks that adversely affect health outcomes,” said Corey Smith, AMA vice president of informatics and digital products and Gravity Project technical director.

The AMA is a founding and critical member of Gravity Project, a national consensus initiative that aims to create data standards to address social determinants (drivers) of health. Over the last four years, Gravity Project has leveraged a diverse collective and convened panels of subject matter experts to vet, build, and curate standardized terminology for social risk domains. A significant focus of this work has been the creation of ICD-10-CM and SNOMED CT codes to document social risks in assessments and plans of care. Many of the SNOMED CT codes were created to represent specific dimensions of social risks to drive interventions.

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About Gravity Project
Gravity Project is a collaborative public-private initiative launched in May 2019 with the goal to develop consensus-driven data standards to support the collection, use, and exchange of data to address the social determinants of health. For more information, visit thegravityproject.net.

About the American Medical Association
The American Medical Association is the physicians’ powerful ally in patient care. As the only medical association that convenes 190+ state and specialty medical societies and other critical stakeholders, the AMA represents physicians with a unified voice to all key players in health care. The AMA leverages its strength by removing the obstacles that interfere with patient care, leading the charge to prevent chronic disease and confront public health crises, and driving the future of medicine to tackle the biggest challenges in health care. For more information, visit ama-assn.org.