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Social Determinants of Health Added to U.S. Core Data for Interoperability

Gravity Project contributes critical data class to national health care and health equity

Washington, D.C.—The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced [today](#) the addition of social determinants of health (SDOH) to the U.S. Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI). The new [Version 2 of the USCDI](#) adds the SDOH data class submitted by the Gravity Project. The data class includes critical SDOH domains such as food insecurity, housing instability and homelessness, transportation insecurity, social isolation, material hardship, and stress to the USCDI, integrated with core clinical activities such as assessments, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes.

Experts have long known that social and environmental determinants explain most—approximately 80-90 percent—of a person’s and population’s health status. For the past seventeen months, the COVID-19 pandemic has consistently highlighted this reality across the nation. The Gravity Project began in 2018 after a diverse group of national experts and stakeholders launched a concerted, urgent strategy to achieve consensus-based, comprehensive coding standards for SDOH data capture, exchange, and use across the variety of systems and settings of care and social services.

The Gravity Project applauds the National Coordinator’s leadership and decision to add SDOH data for better health care and health equity across the United States. Today’s release enables providers, individuals and patients, payers, community-based organizations, and app developers to integrate SDOH for critical use cases, such as shared care planning and coordination, reducing health disparities, value-based care, quality measurement, population and public health, and research.

We are grateful to the many individuals, communities, experts, payers, providers, developers, policymakers, and others across the country—over 1,800 people at last count—who are working collaboratively to build these critical SDOH standards as a public good and have supported the Gravity Project’s submissions with letters and presentations. Most recently on April 15, ONC’s Health Information Technology Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that the National Coordinator add the SDOH data class to version 2, after a presentation and unanimous recommendation from its USCDI Task Force.

The Gravity Project continues to work diligently to develop and test new domains to add to the SDOH data class. We are committed to move SDOH data into action as we launch our piloting activities with individuals and patients, clinicians, and community-based service providers over the coming months.

For more information about the Gravity Project and upcoming piloting opportunities, please visit <https://thegravityproject.net/> or contact gravityproject@emiadvisors.net.