

# Capturing Social and Behavioral Domains in Electronic Health Records

## Summary of Selected Domains

**Social and behavioral factors**—such as your employment and whether you are a smoker—are widely recognized to be important determinants of health and disease. Health care providers and health systems can more effectively influence patient health if they have information on these determinants. Unfortunately, such information is currently captured insufficiently, or not at all, in most electronic health records (EHRs).

The IOM committee developed a set of six criteria that can be used to identify core domains for inclusion in EHRs. These criteria are (1) strength of the evidence of the association of the domain with health; (2) usefulness of the domain, as measured for the individual, population, and research; (3) availability and standard representation of a reliable and valid measure(s) of the domain; (4) feasibility for the patient and clinician and in terms of administrative time and cost of interfaces and storage; (5) sensitivity, such as for revealing personal information; and (6) accessibility of data from another source.

In its report, *Capturing Social and Behavioral Domains in Electronic Health Records: Phase 1*, the first two criteria above were used to identify a candidate set of 17 domains that are best suited for consideration for inclusion in all EHRs. The domains are as follows.

Individual Factors		
<p><b>Sociodemographic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual orientation</li> <li>• Race/ethnicity</li> <li>• Country of origin/U.S. born or non-U.S. born</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Financial resource strain: Food and housing insecurity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Psychological</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health literacy</li> <li>• Stress</li> <li>• Negative mood and affect: Depression and anxiety</li> <li>• Psychological assets: Conscientiousness, patient engagement/activation, optimism, and self efficacy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behavioral</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietary patterns</li> <li>• Physical activity</li> <li>• Nicotine use and exposure</li> <li>• Alcohol use</li> </ul>
<p><b>Individual-Level Social Relationships and Living Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social connections and social isolation</li> <li>• Exposure to violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Neighborhoods/Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geocodable domains: Socioeconomic and race/ethnic characteristics</li> </ul>	

The committee's Phase 2 report will apply all six criteria and will likely result in a smaller set of recommended domains.

The inclusion of social and behavioral determinants of health data in EHRs will provide useful information to health care providers and patients, helping to provide the most appropriate strategies toward improving the health status of Americans.



## Committee on the Recommended Social and Behavioral Domains and Measures for Electronic Health Records

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