

Social factors, also known as Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), can play crucial roles in the health status and health outcomes of beneficiaries. Factors that can have supportive impacts on a person’s health include safe and stable housing, food security, reliable transportation, and social connectedness, among others. Factors that can negatively impact a person’s health include unstable housing, food insecurity, exposure to safety risks (unsafe housing), lack of transportation, social isolation, and domestic violence, among others. Factors with negative impacts can raise stress levels, impact the progression of health conditions, impact one’s ability to mitigate health risks, or impact access to basic health care. A core feature of Rhode Island’s AE initiative is to advance the systematic integration of social determinants of health into an individual’s total care. The development of a screening tool that can be integrated into the AE model is an essential piece of this work. EOHHS defined Social Determinants of Health in the AE Certification Standards. AEs and their partner MCOs should use this definition as a starting point to develop appropriate SDOH screening tools, as well as policies and procedures on data sharing and referrals for their target populations (adults, children, and LTSS beneficiaries).

To the extent possible, AEs should align their proposals with the State Innovation Model (SIM), as it is developed, and available national models to evaluate and screen for social determinants. In an effort to align with best practices, EOHHS will require that all proposed SDOH Screening tools meet the following requirements:

1. Concise and easily integrated into a clinical setting or care management assessments
2. Culturally and linguistically appropriate for all beneficiaries
3. Balanced questions in detecting, at a minimum, all SDOH outlined in the Rhode Island Accountable Entities Certification Standards
4. Evidence based
5. Adaptable to different populations with different areas of need
6. Actionable – include concrete information on appropriate referrals and follow up where needs are identified
7. Incorporate member preferences, goals, strengths and personal preferences

In order to track the use of SDOH screenings and assessments, EOHHS will require AEs to report on the following measure:

Measure: Social Determinants of Health Screening	
Description:	The percentage of attributed patients who were screened for Social Determinants of Health using an EOHHS approved screening tool, where the AE has documented the screening and results.
Target Population:	All attributed members
Numerator Statement:	Individuals attributed to the AE who were screened for Social Determinants of Health within the reporting period.

Denominator Statement:	All attributed members of the AE (adults and children), who were attributed to the AE for 11 out of 12 months during the reporting period, with no break in coverage lasting more than 45 days.
Acceptable Exclusions:	1. Refused to participate
Documentation Requirements:	All screenings must be documented by the AE, regardless of if the AE screened the individual or if it was performed by the MCO or other community partner.
Approved Screening Tools	All screening tools must be approved by EOHHS prior to the reporting period to be counted in the numerator. Tools not approved by EOHHS shall not be included in this measure.
Look back Period:	12 months

AEs are also strongly encouraged to report on the following optional measures:

Measure: Social Determinants of Health Screening with Positive Result for Assistance	
Description:	The percentage of attributed patients who were screened for Social Determinants of Health, where the AE has documented the screening and results, and who screened positive for requiring assistance with one or more social determinant.
Target Population:	All attributed members
Numerator Statement:	Individuals attributed to the AE who were screened for Social Determinants of Health, and who screened positive for requiring assistance with one or more social determinant.
Denominator Statement:	All attributed members of the AE (adults and children), who were attributed to the AE for 11 out of 12 months during the reporting period, with no break in coverage lasting more than 45 days, who were screened for Social Determinants of Health during the reporting period.
Acceptable Exclusions:	1. Refused to participate
Documentation Requirements:	All screenings must be documented by the AE, regardless of if the AE screened the individual or if the screening was performed by the MCO or other community partner.
Approved Screening Tools	All screening tools must be approved by EOHHS prior to the reporting period to be counted in the numerator. The approval process will include approval of the criteria for determining whether a screen is “positive.” Screening tools not approved by EOHHS shall not be included in this measure.
Look back Period:	12 months

Measure: Social Determinants of Health Screening with Positive Result for Assistance and Follow up	
Description:	The percentage of attributed patients who were screened for Social Determinants of Health, where the AE has documented the screening and results, who were identified as requiring assistance with one or more social determinant AND received documented and appropriate follow up.
Age criteria:	All attributed members

Numerator Statement:	Individuals attributed to the AE who were screened for Social Determinants of Health AND, if positive, an appropriate follow up has been documented by the AE.
Denominator Statement:	All attributed members of the AE (adults and children), who were attributed to the AE for 11 out of 12 months during the reporting period, with no break in coverage lasting more than 45 days, who were screened for Social Determinants of Health during the reporting period.
Acceptable Exclusions:	1. Patients who have declined assistance with SDOH needs
Documentation Requirements:	Accountable Entities must have documentation of all screenings on file, regardless of if the AE screened the individual, or if the screening was performed by the MCO or other community partner.
Approved Screening Tools	All screening tools must be approved by EOHHS prior to the reporting period to be counted in the numerator. The approval process will include approval of the criteria for determining whether a screen is “positive.” Other tools not approved by EOHHS shall not be included in this measure.
Look back Period:	12 months