

Discussion Summary
Harmonizing SDOH Data Collection with the Gravity Project
6/10/19 - 6/19/19

High-level overview

Identifying ways to measure and incorporate social determinants of health (SDOH) data to improve health outcomes.

Summary of relevant conversation points

- The Gravity Project focuses on improving and harmonizing documentation around social determinants of health (SDoH) data in EHR systems. Its objectives are to develop use cases related to social determinants; to identify common data elements and their associated value sets to support the uses cases; and to develop recommendations for capturing and grouping these data elements for interoperable electronic exchange and aggregation.
- HL7 Gravity Project Deliverables
The first phase of the Gravity Project will produce five deliverables:
 1. Use Case document outlining personas (human actors), a patient story, and key use cases for exchanging SDOH data across systems.
 2. List of data elements and associated value sets (question-and-answer sets) related to three SDOH domains: food security; housing stability and quality; and transportation access.
 3. Identification of codes and coding gaps for representing identified SDOH data elements and associated value sets in EHRs.
 4. Recommendations for terminology and coding sources to address coding gaps.
 - LOINC codes for questions with SCT or other code systems for responses. LOINC has many surveys and includes codes for Social Determinants of Health (They may need to be culled into a value set to ensure proper implementation for use cases.) After gap analysis, codes can be requested to fill the gaps and ensure end users have what they need for patient care.
 5. A starter HL7 FHIR SDOH Implementation Guide based on the defined use cases and associated data sets (groupings of data elements and value sets).
- The Gravity Project is focused on three domains:
 - Food insecurity
 - Housing instability and quality
 - Transportation access
- Additional social domains will be addressed in the future.
- Project Gravity is currently working to define three use cases:
 1. Gather SDOH data in conjunction with a patient encounter
 2. Document and track SDOH related interventions to completion
 3. Gather and aggregate SDOH data for uses beyond point of care
- Personas are sample representations of people who are part of a process (actors) and/or impacted by it (stakeholders). The GRAVITY personas are representations of individuals involved in the capture and use of social determinants data to provide improved care for patients suffering from adverse social factors. With your input we can make them more accurate and representative of reality.
- The group also raised how it can be difficult to incorporate SDOH across partner operations without getting to more industry standards around data collection, codes and value sets. United Health Group collaborates with the AMA on the use and standardization of SDOH data. They

support use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes, both existing codes, and recommending new codes where gaps exist. This works well as a method of identifying and collecting SDOH information because it fits into existing operational system flows.

- Commonly used social screeners i.e., PRAPARE, Accountable Health Communities, Health Leads and the IOM Recommended Social and Behavioral Domains and Measures for Electronic Health Records do not align with coding standards. As a result, the capture of social determinants data is uneven and their extraction from EHRs difficult, especially at a national level. Work has been done to map PRAPARE to LOINC codes, but ICD-10 codes have more momentum today as a commonly-accepted standard for social determinants data. To solve this problem and help the national health care system harmonize how social determinants data are coded, informaticists and others who are working to develop these standards, within the HL7 community and specifically in the GRAVITY project, need to have a clear understanding of the people and process involved in using social determinants data in screening, assessment and intervention.

Resources

- If you have not already done so, we invite you to officially join the project here:
<https://confluence.hl7.org/display/PC/Join+the+Gravity+Project>
- For all other Gravity Project information, please visit:
<https://confluence.hl7.org/display/PC/The+Gravity+Project+Home>