Provider Bulletin
July 2021

Using Z-diagnosis codes as referral to GroundGame Health

What are Z-diagnosis codes?

Social factors are known to influence health outcomes and success of clinical care plans. Z-diagnosis codes are ICD-10-CM codes that identify persons with potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances. These codes allow providers to capture social factors such as food, housing, transportation, education, and employment on a patient claim.

Using Z-diagnosis codes as referral to GroundGame Health

Healthy Blue is working with GroundGame Health™* (GGH), a national network of community-based service providers that offers a solution for addressing social determinants of health. Z-diagnosis codes can be used as a referral mechanism when a provider desires to refer a patient to GGH.

Healthy Blue will send GGH weekly extracts containing Z-codes submitted by providers on claims. GGH will use this extract to identify patients with suspected health-related social needs (HRSN) disparities, conduct outreach, schedule face-to-face assessments, and connect the patients with community resources to address HRSN gaps.

Z-diagnosis code categories

ICD-10-CM codes included in categories Z55-Z65 identify persons with potential socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances and can be submitted to Healthy Blue on claims:

- Z55 – Problems related to education and literacy
- Z56 – Problems related to employment and unemployment
- Z57 – Occupational exposure to risk factors
- Z59 – Problems related to housing and economic circumstances
- Z60 – Problems related to social environment
- Z62 – Problems related to upbringing
- Z63 – Other problems related to primary support group, including family circumstances
- Z64 – Problems related to certain psychosocial circumstances
- Z65 – Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances

References:

- **https://www.aha.org/system/files/2018-04/value-initiative-icd-10-code-social-determinants-of-health.pdf**
- **https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2020-02-04-aha-webinar-using-z-codes-document-social-determinants-health**

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