

Stakeholder Perceptions on Screening and addressing the social determinants of health at the Internal Medicine Clinic

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Background: Social determinants of health (SDoH) are defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to be the “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes”. Experts suggest that social factors outweigh medical care in contribution of premature mortality, highlighting that the health of the populations cannot be improved only within the medical settings. Prisma Health plans to implement universal SDoH screening in primary care, but little is known on provider and patient perspectives on this rollout.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted to collect qualitative data from clinicians and patients to gauge their perspectives on this screening and resource connection pathway as part of planning cycle for process improvement.

Results: The results were coded for basic themes in order to evaluate overall trends in feedback. Themes that emerged in conversation with patients and staff regarding the impact of the screening tool include improvements in SDoH and resource awareness, greater resource support, an enhanced resource referral network, improved resource infrastructure, and strengthened SDoH monitoring.

Conclusions: Overall, there has been positive sentiment from both the patient and staff demographic. There is an appreciated need and motivation to include SDoH screening into patient care.

Future Steps: Launch in clinical practice of a screening tool to identify patients within Prisma Health’s Internal Medicine Clinic with SDoH needs and connect them with the appropriate resources via the NowPow digital referral platform.

Keywords: Social Determinants of Health, SDoH, Primary Care, Internal Medicine, Public Health, SDoH Screening, Addressing SDoH, Qualitative Improvement, QI
