



Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics 2019
Podium Presentation

Strategies to Address the Complexities Associated with the Assessment, Storage and Use of Social Determinants of Health in the Electronic Health Record

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Social and behavioral determinants of health (SBDH) are central to a successful population health management strategy. There are many obstacles associated with the assessment, storage and use of SBDH in the electronic health record (EHR) that include: (1) multiple, conflicting recommendations from national organizations, (2) multiple instruments with varying social-behavioral determinant domains, scoring and cut points and (3) lack of terminology code sets to store an assessment. This lack of holistic vision has contributed significantly to confusion for healthcare systems, providers and electronic health record suppliers. This presentation will describe a strategy that permits scoring by domain to create equivalency across instruments, settings and populations. The three-tier scoring strategy was designed to: (1) be used immediately at point of care by identifying potential risk for social-behavioral determinant deficits, (2) be consumed within analytics, algorithms and for secondary analysis, and (3) produce a composite score that reflects total social-behavioral determinant burden across settings within a healthcare system. The social-behavioral determinant domain scores that contribute to the composite score would be most appropriately encoded with Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC), the universal standard for identifying health measurements, observations, and documents. The scoring strategy supports the six uses recommended by the National Academy of Medicine (2014) and leverages the power of SBDH data in relationship to healthcare delivery.