

Social determinants of health

Social determinants of health are non-medical factors that can influence someone's health, such as food insecurity, interpersonal safety, housing, transportation and financial status. They are the conditions in which people are born, work, live and age. We ask all our patients to provide information about these non-medical factors.

The information you give us will be kept private in your health record. It will help us understand who you are, your needs and how we can provide the best care possible.

You may be asked these questions during an emergency department visit, hospital admission and a regular visit with your primary care provider.

You do not have to answer. If you choose not to answer, you may be asked again at future visits.

We use this information to:

- better understand our community;
- identify and address healthcare disparities; and
- address our patients' needs by connecting them with resources in the community.

Frequently asked questions

Why is it important to collect this information from patients?

We ask these questions to help us understand our patients' needs and to connect them to resources outside of the hospital.

Who will see this information? How will it be shared?

Your information is confidential and protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. It will be kept in your health record and accessible by your care team.

Who are you collecting this information from?

We are asking all of our patients for this information.

Do I have to answer?

No. Answering is voluntary but your answers can help us better serve all of our patients.