

Patient Name _____

Patient Needs Screening Tool

Please answer the questions below to tell us your health needs and problems getting the care you need.

Your Needs			
1	In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?	YES	NO
2	In the last 12 months, has your utility company shut off your service (water, electricity, gas) for not paying your bills?	YES	NO
3	Are you worried that in the next 2 months, you may not have stable housing?	YES	NO
4	Do problems getting childcare make it difficult for you to get to your medical appointments? (leave blank if you do not have children)	YES	NO
5	In the last 12 months, have you needed to see a doctor, but could not because of cost?	YES	NO
6	In the last 12 months have you ever had to go without health care because you didn't have a way to get there?	YES	NO
7	Do you ever need help reading or understanding medical forms?	YES	NO
8	Are you afraid you might be hurt in your home?	YES	NO
9	Have you received mental health or substance abuse services in the past? Do you need these services now?	YES	NO
10	If you answered yes to any of the questions above, are any of these needs urgent? (For example: I don't have food tonight, I don't have a place to sleep tonight.)	YES	NO
11	Is it difficult for you to find people to help you when you need it?	YES	NO
Your Experiences with Care			
12	Have you ever felt ashamed or fearful when seeking medical attention?	YES	NO
13	Have you experienced discrimination based on: Your skin color, your accent, or where you are from? Your gender or sexual orientation? For any other reason?	YES	NO
14	Have you ever felt like you could not trust your medical providers or that they did not have your best interest in mind?	YES	NO

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your needs and experiences with care?

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Instructions for Using the Patient Needs Screening Tool

Health disparities are not always the result of personal choices. Barriers, both personal and social, can be rooted in structural vulnerability and can impact a patient's ability to meet their healthcare needs. Structural vulnerability is when an individual is at risk for negative health outcomes because of social conditions, including effects of poverty, literacy and educational access, neighborhood and community resources, racism, gender or sexual discrimination, or other factors.

This questionnaire addresses these and offers health care providers an advantage when interacting with the client and when tailoring the patient's treatment plan.

- If personal needs are identified (questionnaire items 1-11), the provider can link the patient with the appropriate resources to help meet that need.
- Identifying a patient's social barriers (questionnaire items 12-14) can help providers gain a better understanding of the structural reasons behind a patient's experiences with healthcare professionals and the healthcare system in general.

When engaging with a patient with structural vulnerabilities, providers can create a respectful space that builds trust by:

- Using person-first language to establish respectful communication;
- Using clear and simple language;
- Employing a trauma-informed approach that takes into account events that may trigger patients; and
- Identifying conscious and unconscious stereotypes and attitudes that may change how they, as a provider, interact with and make health care decisions with patients.

Ideally, this tool should be administered by the medical provider, but it is structured so patients can complete the questionnaire on their own to be addressed by the provider.

South Carolina Center for
**Rural and Primary
Healthcare**

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