

Supplementary Appendix

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This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about the work.

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Table S1: Examples of Evidence-Based Dot Phrases.*

Description	Dot Phrase
Impact of Court Fines & Fees on Health Outcomes	Pt has/is at risk of outstanding court fines and fees, which have been shown to lead to serious consequences such as stress and anxiety, exacerbating economic inequality, prolonging involvement with the criminal justice system, and leading to high rates of medical debt (Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, The Federal Reserve, 2020; Harris et al., The Laura and John Arnold Foundation, 2017; Martin et al., Annual Review of Criminology, 2018). These factors put pt at risk of adverse physical and mental health outcomes. We discussed the following support plans. ***
Impact of Housing Insecurity on Medical Morbidity and Healthcare Utilization	Pt is experiencing/at risk of homelessness or housing insecurity. Long-term consequences of homelessness include higher morbidity of both physical and mental health conditions, trauma and exposure to violence, and increased rates of ED visits and hospitalizations (Clark et al., American Journal of Public Health, 2018; Lim et al., Health Services Research, 2018; Taylor, Health Affairs: Project HOPE, 2018). Based on these risk factors, we discussed the following safety and support plans: ***
Impact of Incarceration on Mental Health Outcomes	Pt is at risk of being incarcerated yet experiences *** mental illness. Evidence shows that people with mental illness are overrepresented in jails/prisons, as much as 2-4 times higher than the general population (Al-Rousan et al., BMC Public Health, 2017; Steadman et al., Psychiatric Services, 2009). Prison environments may even exacerbate subclinical mental illnesses during the course of incarceration due to social isolation, violence, and general lack of support (Al-Rousan et al., BMC Public Health, 2017). Based on this evidence, the pt's mental health would substantially benefit from access to community-based treatment services as opposed to incarceration. Based on these risk factors, we discussed the following safety and support plans: ***
Impact of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) on Health Outcomes	Pt is a survivor of intimate partner violence and does not have a safe place to live. IPV has been shown to lead to psychological impacts of chronic stress and trauma, higher risk of chronic medical conditions, sleeping difficulties, and poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes, among other health consequences (Cheng & Lo, Health & Social Work, 2019; Loxton et al., PloS One, 2017; Miller & McCaw, The New England Journal of Medicine, 2019). Pt may even be at risk of serious physical injury and/or death (Lee et al., Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing, 2019; Miller & McCaw, The New England Journal of Medicine, 2019). Based on these findings we came up with the following safety plan: ***

Impact of Transportation Difficulties on Health Outcomes	Pt experiences difficulties with transportation, which makes it challenging for her/him/them to attend medical appointments and other daily necessities. This is a common problem in the US and negatively impacts chronic disease management and access to medications, particularly for older adults, racial/ethnic minorities, and people living below the federal poverty line (Kamimura et al., Health Services Research and Managerial Epidemiology, 2018; Solomon et al., Medical Care, 2020; Starbird et al., Journal of Community Health, 2019; Syed et al., Journal of Community Health, 2013). Consistent with the literature, poor access to transportation has also impacted this pt’s ability to access employment and groceries (Solomon et al., Medical Care, 2020). We discussed the following safety and support plans: ***
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*From Docs for Health (www.docsforhealth.org). A dot phrase is a colloquial term for a preformed block of text that is inserted using keyboard shortcuts, often preceded by a dot. For example, “.LBP” might pull in a block of text related to low back pain. Most EHRs have this capability, both for organization-level and individual user-created content

Table S2: Examples of National Resources.*

Resource	Description	Supporting Evidence
HUD Verification of Disability	If your patient is interested in applying for subsidized housing, then this resource could be very helpful for them. If you fill out this form for your patient, and they turn it in with every application they submit for subsidized/public housing, they will be placed on disabled lists and thus will likely gain access to subsidized housing much more quickly than if you had not filled out this form for them.	It is challenging to obtain very low-income housing in this country, and the waiting lists are often very long. Some buildings only accept applicants with documented disabilities, and others give preference to disabled applicants. Thus, if an individual is deemed disabled by the federal government (i.e. they are in receipt of either SSI or SSDI), they have relatively more options for properties and the waitlists tend to be relatively shorter. However, you may have a patient who is not in receipt of SSI or SSDI but who you, as a healthcare provider, believe to be functionally disabled.

<p>Poor Housing Conditions</p>	<p>If your patient is living in poor or unsafe housing conditions that are negatively affecting their health, including concerns related to overcrowding, rodents, roaches, mold, lead exposure, or utilities, this resource will allow you to write a letter to the landlord explaining the impacts of these conditions on your patient’s health and advocating for timely changes to be made.</p>	<p>In a 2021 JAMA Pediatrics article entitled “Landlord Behavior After Receiving Pediatrician-Generated Letters to Address Poor Housing Conditions,” physician- generated letters were shown to have an important impact on the actions of landlords to address poor housing conditions.</p>
<p>Health Impact of Incarceration</p>	<p>If incarceration will impact your patient’s medical or mental health, this resource will help you to write a letter advocating that a prison sentence not be imposed on your patient.</p>	<p>There is significant evidence that incarceration worsens physical and mental health outcomes that have long-term impacts on an individual’s health and wellbeing. A disproportionately large proportion of people who are incarcerated suffer from mental health and substance use disorders. A correctional setting is far from the ideal place to treat these and other medical conditions. In fact, researchers have found that people with mental illness and substance use disorders do better when they are treated in the community rather than in correctional settings.</p>

Waiving Court Fines & Fees	If your patient has outstanding court costs, fines, or fees that, in your assessment, impact their medical or mental health, this resource will help you to write a letter advocating for your patient’s court costs/fines/fees to be eliminated or reduced..	Court fines are financial punishments assessed by a judge upon conviction, and court fees are charges that defendants must pay to recoup justice system costs. For people who have the ability to pay, these charges may be a minor inconvenience; however, for those who don’t have the means, they can represent significant burdens that trigger more serious consequences such as exacerbating economic inequality, prolonged involvement with the criminal justice system, driver’s license suspension, voting restrictions, and damaged credit. Furthermore, people with legal debt are more likely to have other types of debt as well, particularly medical debt. Black and Hispanic adults, people with less income, and people with less education have been shown to be disproportionately affected by legal expenses.
SNAP ABAWD Exception	If your patient who has a medical or mental health condition that makes working difficult normally qualifies for SNAP benefits but falls within the “Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD)” category and is thus at risk of having their benefits terminated, this resource can be used to advocate for a medical exemption.	ABAWDs cannot receive SNAP benefits for more than three months within a three year period if they don’t meet one of the exemption criteria. For an ABAWD to qualify for a medical exemption, a person licensed to treat the condition has to state that the person is not able to work more than 20 hours per week.

*From Docs for Health (www.docsforhealth.org).

Table S3: Examples of Rhode Island-Specific Resources.*

Resource	Description	Supporting Evidence
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<p>RIPTA Disability Bus Pass</p>	<p>If your patient has a disability and has difficulties paying for public transportation, this resource will help you write a letter advocating for your patient to receive a two-year disability bus pass.</p>	<p>RIPTA offers a Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program that enables low-income people with disabilities or over the age of 65 to purchase a two-year bus pass for \$10. The healthcare provider can support a patient in accessing this bus pass if the provider believes the patient has a disability and accessing public transportation is essential for a patient’s activities of daily living, including accessing health care.</p>
<p>Preventing Utilities Shut-Off</p>	<p>If your patient is seriously ill or has a disability and is at risk of having their utilities shut-off, this resource will allow you to advocate for a deferral of service termination. This form can be filled out to advocate with National Grid for a patient with a serious illness or disability who is at risk of having their utilities shut off. Special accommodations can be put in place to ensure that service is not terminated for a set period of time.</p>	<p>The cost of utilities can represent a significant financial burden for many low- income people, particularly individuals with a significant illness or disability. For people who are chronically ill, electricity can be crucial to refrigerate medicines and power medical devices such as nebulizers, oxygen concentrators, and dialysis machines. Other serious illnesses that may be impacted by utilities shut-off include mental health conditions and chronic illnesses such as diabetes or asthma. A 2015 study found that a medical certification preventing utilities shut-offs can potentially improve the well-being and health of children with special needs or chronic health conditions.</p> <p>Utilities companies cannot terminate the service of individuals who are seriously ill (as defined by a physician) and who cannot afford to pay bills because of financial hardship.</p>

*From Docs for Health (www.docsforhealth.org).