

HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

Screening to Support Patients Experiencing Food Insecurity



Determining the Need

In HMC outpatient clinics, all patients are eligible to be screened for food insecurity.

The Hunger VitalSign screening tool is used first, followed by questions about eating behaviors.



Patients are flagged as potentially food insecure by a Registered Dietitian.



All food insecurity screenings are recorded in each patient's records for easy access to facilitate the most appropriate medical care.



Prescriptions for Food

If a patient screens positive for food insecurity, they may be eligible to access assistance programs available in King County and statewide including:

- Fresh Bucks Rx for redemption at Farmers Markets and grocers
- Complete Eats Rx for redemption at participating Safeway stores statewide

Patients are encouraged to access these benefits quarterly, regardless of how often they visit the clinics.

Increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables provide patients with foods that could prevent future health complications.

Food insecurity data can be shared across electronic medical records for more comprehensive patient care.



Looking Forward

Registered Dietitians at HMC, believe an ideal food insecurity screening tool should be:

- Used to screen all patients
- Tailored to fit the priorities and systems of different organizations
- Easy to understand, document, & report
- Regularly communicated to hospital administrators for greater understanding of the severity of patients experiencing food insecurity

Thank you Harborview for your contribution to the King County Healthcare & Food Insecurity Learning Network!