Addressing Social Determinants of Health

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March 2, 2020

Abstract

Social determinants of health are increasingly prominent as payers and policy makers decide on ways to address social needs of patients in order to improve health and potentially lower costs through prevention. One promising example is “hotspotting”: focusing on the most complex patients and providing intense care management to address social and clinical needs. Another promising but relatively untested example is “food as medicine”, providing healthy food to targeted patients in an effort to motivate healthier diets. Retrospective matched-comparisons and ongoing prospective, randomized evaluations of these interventions will be discussed.

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†This work is preliminary and comments are welcome. A paper is being planned for a medical journal, restricting the ability to distribute it. Our first published work in this research program can be found here: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1906848