

Hunger Vital Signs™ Screening Implementation Examples

Who

Non Clinical Staff
(Enrollment Specialists,
Community Health
Workers)

Clinical Staff

Care Coordinators

Non Clinical Staff (Patient
Advocates, Patient
Navigators)

Where

In Waiting Room

In Exam Room

In Care Coordinator's
Office

In Patient Advocate's
Office

When

Before Provider Visit

Before Provider Enters
Exam Room

When Completing Health
Risk Assessments

After Clinical Visit

How

Administer HVS with
patients that would
be waiting over 30
minutes for provider

Administer HVS after
vitals and reason for visit.
Provider reviews data and
refers to case manager

Administer HVS in
conjunction with Health
Risks Assessments

Administer HVS and
respond as appropriate
with community resources
guide and CHHP bag

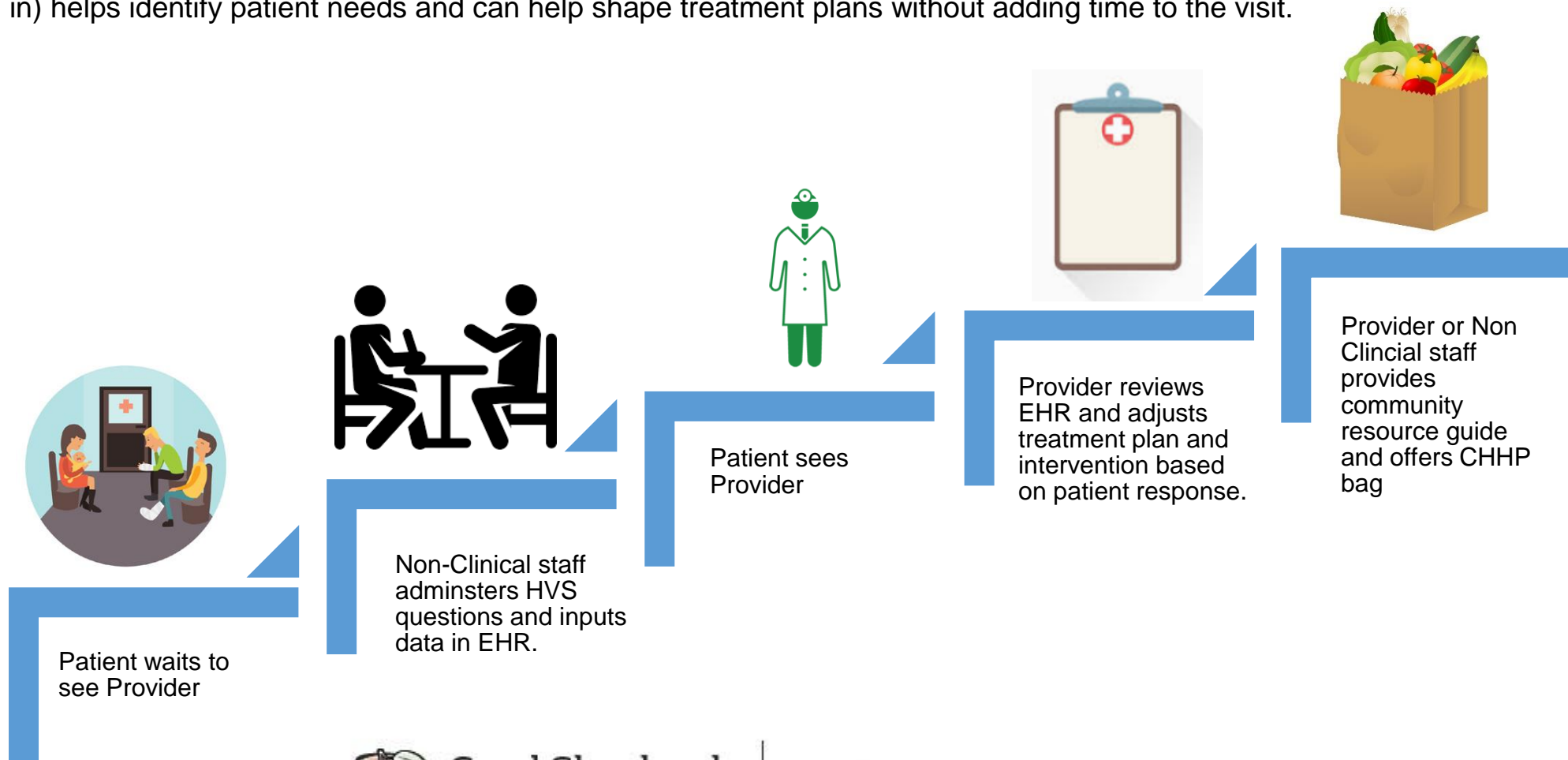


Good Shepherd
FOOD BANK OF MAINE

partnering to end hunger

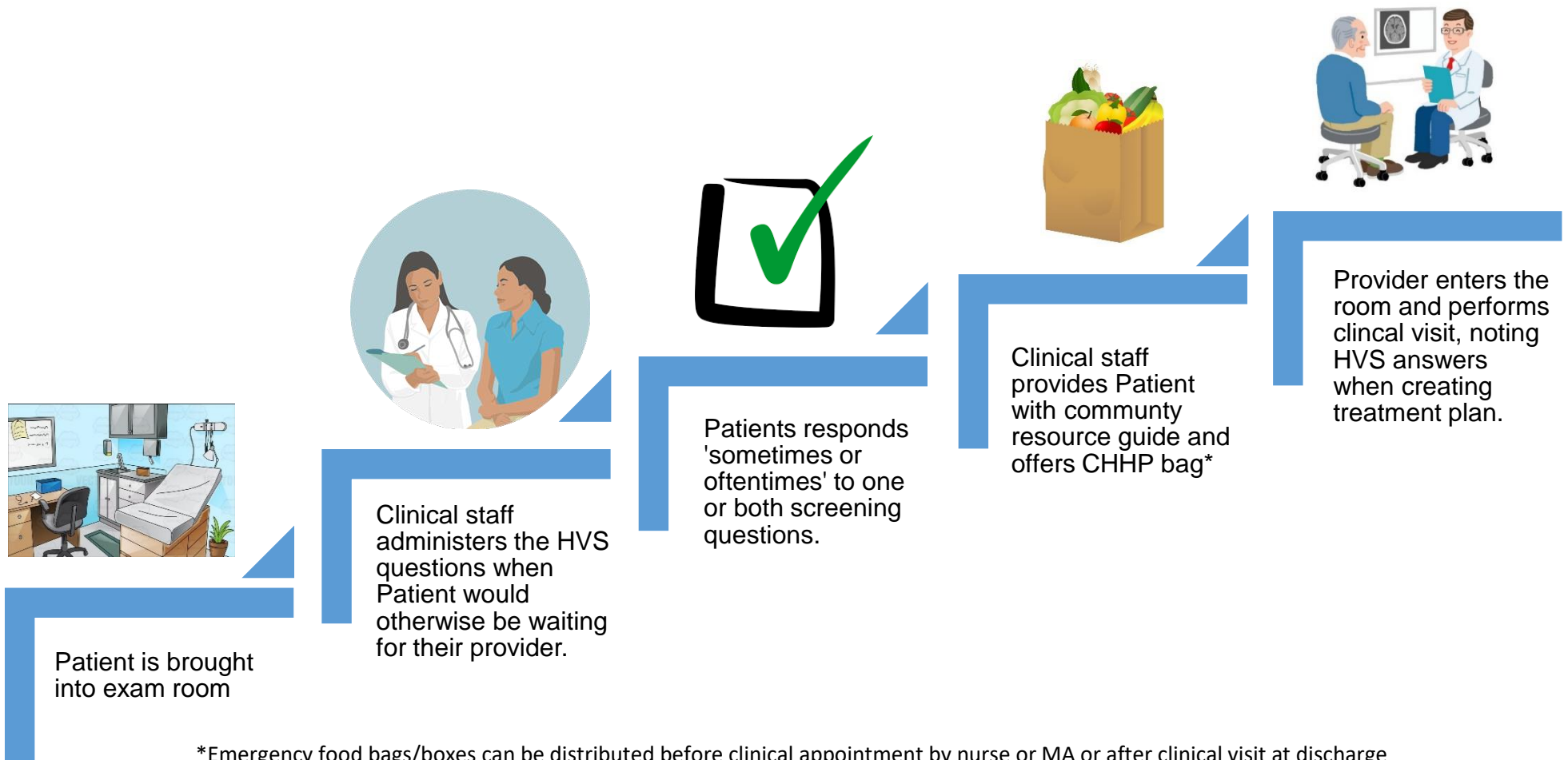
Utilizing Non-Clinical Staff before Clinic Visits to Screen for Food Insecurity

Non-Clinical staff such as Enrollment Coordinators and Community Health Workers are a valuable resource in a health care setting and provide important insights into when and where patients will feel most comfortable responding to questions about food insecurity and other social determinants of health. They are also often employed from the surrounding community and may better understand patient needs and the environmental barriers patients may face in addressing health concerns. Screening for food insecurity before a clinic visit (during registration or sign in) helps identify patient needs and can help shape treatment plans without adding time to the visit.



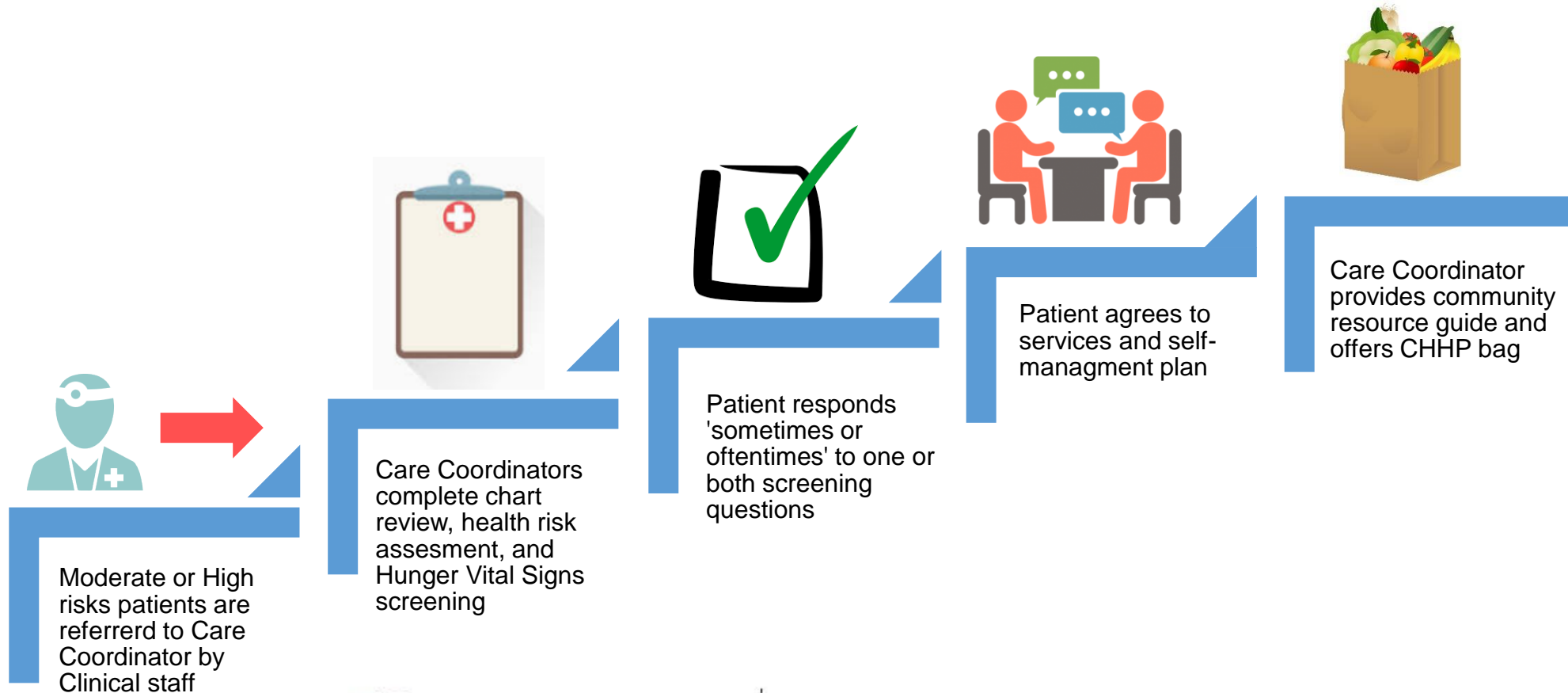
Utilizing Clinical Staff during Clinic Visits to Screen for Food Insecurity

Clinical staff including nurses, medical assistants, and behavioral health specialists are trained to collect sensitive patient information in a discreet and professional way. Administering the Hunger Vital Signs questions in an exam room ensures that the information is collected in a private setting and patients may feel more comfortable speaking with clinical staff about sensitive topics.



Utilizing Care Coordinators during Clinic Visits to Screen for Food Insecurity

Care Coordinators are a natural fit to screen patients using the Hunger Vital Signs questions because their professional duties include connecting patients to services that meet their specialized needs as identified at their clinical visit. In a Care Coordinator's office the Hunger Vital Signs questions can be administered in conjunction with other patient assessments where similar needs can be addressed simultaneously.



Utilizing Non-Clinical Staff after Clinic Visits to Screen for Food Insecurity

Non-Clinical staff such as Patient Advocates and Patient Navigators are important connection points between patients and community organizations that can offer non-medical support for patients outside of the clinical setting. Patient Advocates and Patient Navigators have the advantage of being able to connect patients that identify as food insecure directly with the resources they need within their community. In addition to being directly connected to community resources, non-clinical staff typically do not have care-coordination responsibilities and may have more time to administer and respond to the Hunger Vital Signs questions.

