

HUNGER VITAL SIGNS™

SCREENING TIPS

Utilize value-added time when a patient would otherwise be waiting for service. Using value-added time will ensure that the screening questions do not lengthen the visit.

To avoid awkward conversation and/or embarrassment on the patients' part, staff can leave the two question Hunger Vital Sign™ survey with the patient in the exam room and instruct them to fill it out before the provider sees them.

Prepare a prompt or a flag in the EHR to remind staff to complete the Hunger Vital Signs™ questions.

Streamline data collecting by incorporating the Hunger Vital Signs™ into existing assessments.

Ensure that patients know that everyone is screened the same way so that they don't feel singled out. "We ask everyone these questions as part of every visit."

Train all staff conducting the screening on how to connect patients with community resources and where to refer patients to for additional support.

Train staff on the importance of collecting food insecurity data and the connection between health and hunger.

Implement universal screening- Hunger is often well hidden (especially among new parents and the elderly) so it's important to not let physical appearance or assumptions about home life affect who is screened.

PARTNERING TO END HUNGER



Good Shepherd

FOOD BANK OF MAINE