Overview

Providers, including physical and behavioral health, are important partners in meeting New York Health Equity Reform 1115 Waiver Amendment ("NYHER") objectives. They can participate in the SCN Program by talking to Medicaid members about Social Care Networks ("SCN") and the services that may be available, sharing contact information for a regional Social Care Network Lead Entity ("SCN LE"), and by conducting screening for health-related social needs in Medicaid members using the required data elements of the Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs ("HRSNs") Assessment ("screening" / "screens").

Off-Platform Screening Data Transfer Purpose & Overview

Under SCN Program guidelines, screens can be captured within the SCN platform, an IT platform which supports HRSN Screening and Navigation, data sharing and reporting, reimbursement of HRSN service providers, and claims submission. To offer flexibility in accommodating existing technology providers may be using (e.g., EHR systems) and varying levels of provider resources or capacity for technology development, screens can also be captured outside of the SCN platform. When the screens are captured outside of a SCN platform, they are referred to as "off-platform screens."

Whether the screen originates on or off platform, it is used to initiate the process to systematically address the HRSNs of Medicaid members. Following the completion of a screen, Social Care Navigators work with members to confirm their HRSNs, understand the current services received; and discuss additional Social Risk Factors and clinical criteria to understand which HRSN Enhanced Services a member may be eligible for.

To ensure off-platform screens are routed to the SCN platform for Social Care Navigators to initiate member outreach, NYS has partnered with Qualified Entities ("QEs") and New York eHealth Collaborative ("NYeC") to enable a secure transfer of screens to the Statewide Health Information Network for New York ("SHIN-NY"). This technological infrastructure enables data sharing between ecosystem partners in a secure way. Screens completed off-platform are routed from the SHIN-NY to the corresponding member's designated SCN IT Platform, using member attributes from the off-platform screen to inform where to route the screen.

When key attributes are not present on the screen, the QE will attempt to supplement the values using other member attributes on the screen. For example, if the CIN is not supplied on the off-platform screen, a QE may attempt to add one using the member's name and date of birth ("DOB") supplied on the screen. However, if the QE is unable to supplement key attributes, the screen cannot be routed to the relevant SCN platform.

To ensure the off-platform screen is appropriately routed to the corresponding SCN, while minimizing dependency on QEs to supplement the data, it is paramount off-platform screening providers adhere to the technical requirements specified by NYeC, linked below.

Additionally, to ensure Social Care Navigators can act on off-platform screens, it is critical off-platform screeners ask, and answer, as many questions in the Accountable Health Communities ("AHC") Health-Related Social Needs ("HRSNs") Assessment as feasible. In instances where the member does not answer a question, a data absent reason code should be included for the corresponding question when the screen is sent by the screening entity to the QE. Link below for eligible data absent reason codes. Off-platform screens are potentially eligible for reimbursement. For these details, please refer to existing guidance, linked below.

Off-Platform Screening Data Transfer High Level Process

1. **Screening:** Screening involves asking a standard series of questions, coupled with the empathetic engagement with individuals to understand their life context, specific needs, and HRSN service preferences. Screeners will use the AHC HRSN Screening Tool or AHC Embedded Tool (Screening tool with the complete Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Screening questions and answers embedded within the tool). The wording and LOINC coding is identical to the AHC HRSN Screening Tool for all question-and answer pairs, including consent. If a contracted screening entity would like technical assistance verifying the accuracy of their AHC Embedded Tool, they may contact SDH@health.ny.gov for support.
    a. The final screen must contain a "Question 0," which reflects the necessary consent obtained from the member. Screen questions cannot be adjusted or changed once the screen is completed.
    b. To support Social Care Navigators in their efforts to outreach to a member in follow-up to an off-platform screen, it is critical that off-platform screeners ask and answer as many questions in the Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs Assessment as feasible
    c. Primary supporting guidance: Social Care Network: Program, Billing, and Data Governance Operations Manual
2. **Data Transfer Method:** To begin sending screens off-platform, the service provider contracting team and technical team should work with the SCN LE and regional QE to determine how to send screens to the SHIN-NY. Available options:
    a. EHR connection to SHIN-NY QE (bypass the SCN platform)
    b. SMART on FHIR application embedded in EHR
    c. QE clinical portal
    d. NYS Medicaid Statewide Screening Site (SSS)
    e. Submit Self- Screenings through options a-c or a mobile app
    f. Primary supporting guidance: Social Care Networks: Data and IT Fact Sheet
3. **Technical Requirements:** Service provider technical team to work with SCN LE, QE, and NYeC to implement technical requirements.
    a. Primary supporting guidance: (technical guidance) Data Specifications Off-Platform Screenings
4. **Routing & Reimbursement:** Once screens are sent to the SHIN-NY via QE, they will be routed to the appropriate designated SCN IT platform for the member. Once received by the SCN platform, the screens will be potentially eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the Social Care Network: Program, Billing, and Data Governance Operations Manual for reimbursement requirements.
    a. To ensure the off-platform screen is appropriately routed to the corresponding SCN, it is paramount off-platform screen providers adhere to the technical requirements, specified by NYeC. Requirements linked below.
    b. Primary supporting guidance: Social Care Network: Program, Billing, and Data Governance Operations Manual

Additional Resources to Support Sending Off-Platform Screens

Document Title & Link	Purpose	Contact for Support

Social Care Network: Program, Billing, and Data Governance Operations Manual	• Screening and reimbursement guidance for off-platform screens, designated by OHIP • SCN program, billing, and data governance guidance for SCN LEs	SDH@health.ny.gov
NYeC 1115 Waiver Homepage Data Specifications Off-Platform Screenings	• Data transfer purpose under the SCN Program and overview of data sharing processes and supporting entities • Links to specifications and data guides • NYeC supplied technical specifications for CCDA and flat-file off-platform screen transfers	1115-waiver@nyehealth.org
Data Absent Reason Codes	Value set for eligible HL7 data absent reason codes	1115-waiver@nyehealth.org
Introduction for Health Care Providers	Overview of the SCN program and answers common questions such as how health care providers can get involved, and expectations of participating in a SCN	SDH@health.ny.gov
Social Care Networks: Data and IT Fact Sheet	Guidance for providers connecting to SCN program data and technology infrastructure	SDH@health.ny.gov
Information for Health Care Providers	DOH webpage including an SCN Program overview, health care provider participation details, reimbursement details, and helpful links	SDH@health.ny.gov