# Food Insecurity Algorithm for Patients, Ages 12 - 17

**Hunger Vital Sign for Adolescents**

Please tell me how often the following statements are true (Often, Sometimes, or Never):

1. Within the past 12 months, I worried about not having enough to eat.
2. Within the past 12 months, I tried not to eat so that our food would last.

If Often True or Sometimes True to EITHER STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1: Assess and treat, if indicated</th>
<th>Step 3: Refer to Food Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Growth parameters (underweight, overweight, and short stature)</td>
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<td>- Problems with behavior and/or development</td>
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<td>- Dental caries</td>
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<td>- Iron deficiency</td>
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<td>- Child or parent depression or anxiety</td>
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<td>- Academic underperformance</td>
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<td>- Asthma</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 2: Code for Food Insecurity</th>
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<td>Z59.4: Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water</td>
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<th>Step 4: Follow-Up at Next Visit</th>
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<td>Follow-up on referrals to food resources</td>
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## Step 3: Refer to Food Resources

- **NEVHC Food Rx Guide**
  - Given by the MA before patient is seen by the provider

- **Emergency Food Resources**
  - Emergency Food Map available that provides schedule of Pacoima Food Banks and Emergency Food Distribution Sites

- **Community Resource Help Line**
  - (818) 979-7400 X 42062

For more information, please contact:

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## Food Insecurity Screening for Patients Ages 12 – 17 Years Old

### Medical Assistant (MA)
- **MA vitals the patient.**
- **MA provides the patient the tablet and asks them to complete the questionnaires (PHQ-9 and Hunger Vital Sign).**
- **Patient completes the questionnaires.**
- **MA opens the template and saves the responses in the E.H.R.**
- **Did the patient screen positive for food insecurity?**
- **Yes**
  - **MA provides the patient with the Food Rx Guide.**
  - **MA communicates a positive screen to the provider.**
- **No**
  - **Did the patient screen negative for food insecurity?**
  - **Yes**
    - **Generate tracks report for patients who screen positive for food insecurity by provider.**
    - **Call the patient, parent and/or caregiver (document encounter as a telephone visit). Make at least 3 attempts to contact.**
    - **Phone visit includes explanation of resources provided in Food Rx Guide, referral to SNAP-Ed programs, enrollment in 1 Degree to make referrals to additional resources as necessary (food, material conditions, etc.). Patient will receive resources via text or e-mail.**
  - **No**
    - **Positive food insecurity screen will generate an alert in the E.H.R.**
    - **Assess and treat, if indicated.**
    - **Refer to Food Resources: NEVHC Food Rx Guide, Emergency Food Resources, Community Resource Help Line, Clinical Degreed Nutritionist. Inform patient the nutritionist will f/u.**
    - **Code for Food Insecurity Z59.4**
    - **Document standard phrase in the patient plan. Follow-up as warranted.**

### Provider
- **Positive food insecurity screen will generate an alert in the E.H.R.**
- **Assess and treat, if indicated.**
- **Refer to Food Resources: NEVHC Food Rx Guide, Emergency Food Resources, Community Resource Help Line, Clinical Degreed Nutritionist. Inform patient the nutritionist will f/u.**
- **Code for Food Insecurity Z59.4**
- **Document standard phrase in the patient plan. Follow-up as warranted.**

### Clinical Degreed Nutritionist
- **Generate tracks report for patients who screen positive for food insecurity by provider.**
- **Call the patient, parent and/or caregiver (document encounter as a telephone visit). Make at least 3 attempts to contact.**
- **Phone visit includes explanation of resources provided in Food Rx Guide, referral to SNAP-Ed programs, enrollment in 1 Degree to make referrals to additional resources as necessary (food, material conditions, etc.). Patient will receive resources via text or e-mail.**
- **Is the patient high risk (altered nutrition related lab values and/or chronic disease)?**
  - **Yes**
    - **Schedule an appointment with a Registered Dietitian.**
  - **No**

### Talking Points for a Positive Screening

**Medical Assistant:**

- “NEVHC’s new Food Prescription Guide has information that you and your family can use to access many different resources to keep you healthy.”
- “La nueva Guía de prescripción de alimentos de NEVHC tiene información que usted y su familia pueden usar para conseguir recursos diferentes para mantenerlo saludable.”

**Provider:**

- “Food is important to our health. I want to make sure you have access to enough food and the right types of food. This guide and map have many resources that are available to you. I am also referring you to nutrition services. A nutritionist will contact you to help answer any of your nutrition questions and connect you to additional resources.”
- “La comida es importante para nuestra salud. Quiero asegurarme de que tienes acceso a suficientes alimentos y los tipos de alimentos adecuados. También te estoy refiriendo a servicios de nutrición. Un nutricionista se pondrá en contacto con usted para ayudarlo a responder cualquiera de sus preguntas sobre nutrición y lo conectará con recursos adicionales.”