



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

ENGAGING LOCAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS in
COORDINATED ENTRY

Noelle Porter **CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS**

Agenda

- Establishing Relationships with Health Systems
- Screening Tools
- Data Sharing
- Discharge Planning
- Staffing
- Respite Beds

Establishing Relationships

- Telling the story
- Creating protocol
- Staffing up
- Accessing resources

Telling the Story

- Chronically homeless individuals are our most vulnerable residents – studies have shown that living on the streets can take up to 25 years off an individual's life
- A chronically homeless person can use over \$8,000 in public services each month
- Homeless patients stay in the hospital an average of 4 days longer (10.6 vs. 6.4 days)
- Hospitals are a central point to the community, especially for “super utilizers”

Screening Tools

- Short and simple
- Clinically validated
- Integrated
- Ask patients to prioritize
- Pilot

Screening Tools

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Homelessness Screening Clinical Reminder

Screen not performed:

- Already receiving homelessness services or assistance
- Long-term resident of Nursing Home/Long-Term Care Facility
- Declines screening at this time
- Veteran/Caregiver unable to answer

1. In the past 2 months, have you been living in stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?

- Yes, living in stable housing → *Proceed to question 2*
- No, not living in stable housing → *Proceed to question 3*

2. Are you worried or concerned that in the next 2 months you may NOT have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?

- Yes, worried about housing in the near future → *Proceed to question 3*
- No, not worried about housing in the near future → *Reminder completed*

3. Where have you lived for MOST of the past 2 months?

- Apartment/House/Room – no government subsidy
- Apartment/House/Room – with government subsidy
- With Friend/Family
- Motel/Hotel
- Hospital, Rehabilitation Center, Drug Treatment Center
- Homeless Shelter
- Anywhere outside (e.g., street, vehicle, abandoned building)
- Other * _____

4. Would you like to be referred to talk more about your housing situation?

- Patient agrees to referral
- Patient declines referral at this time – given information for future reference

What's the best way to reach you?

How to reach: _____

HOUSING INSTABILITY

SCREENING QUESTIONS LIBRARY

Essential to include on your screening form
Examples: Homelessness, unsafe housing quality, inability to pay mortgage/rent, frequent housing disruptions, eviction

Recommended Screening Question

Are you worried or concerned that in the next two months you may not have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as a part of a household?

✓ Yes, No

Why we recommend this question: This question was written by the Veterans Administration and is a good proxy for immediate housing challenges. It comes from a validated instrument and is written at an eighth grade level, which may be somewhat challenging for low-literacy populations to understand.

Alternative Options

	CLINICALLY VALIDATED	PRECISION	GRADE LEVEL
In the last month, have you slept outside, in a shelter, or in a place not meant for sleeping? Yes, No (Health Begins)			6 th
Do you think you are at risk of becoming homeless? Yes, No (WeCare)			8 th
An eviction is when your landlord or a government or bank official forces you to move when you don't want to. In the past five years have you ever been evicted? Yes, No (Children's Health Watch)			9 th
How often in the past 12 months would you say you were worried or stressed about having enough money to pay your rent/mortgage? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, Never (CDC)			12 th

From the HealthLeads Screening Toolkit

Screening Tools

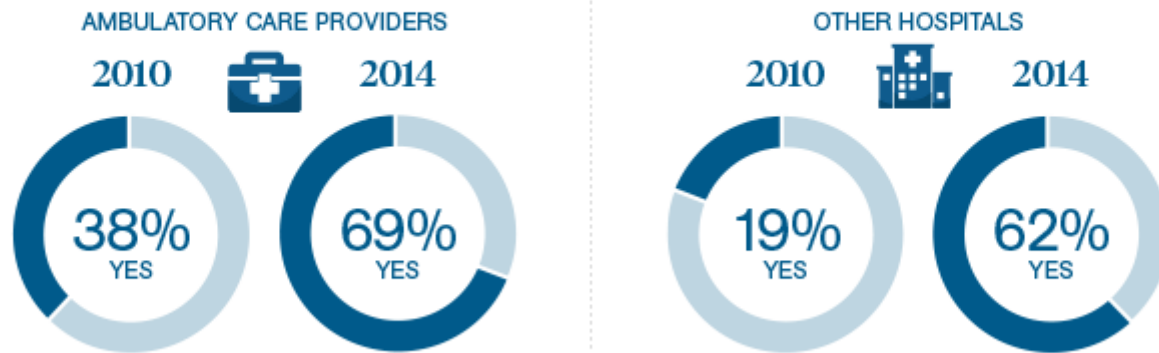
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)
- [Children's HealthWatch Survey Instrument 2013](#)
- [HealthBegins Upstream Risks Screening Tool and Guide v2.6](#)
- [Veterans Affairs Homelessness Screening Tool 2009](#)

Data Sharing

- Creating agreements between hospitals and HCH clinics
 - With outreach teams
 - With peer support agencies
- Hospital staff with HMIS access
- Innovations from your communities?

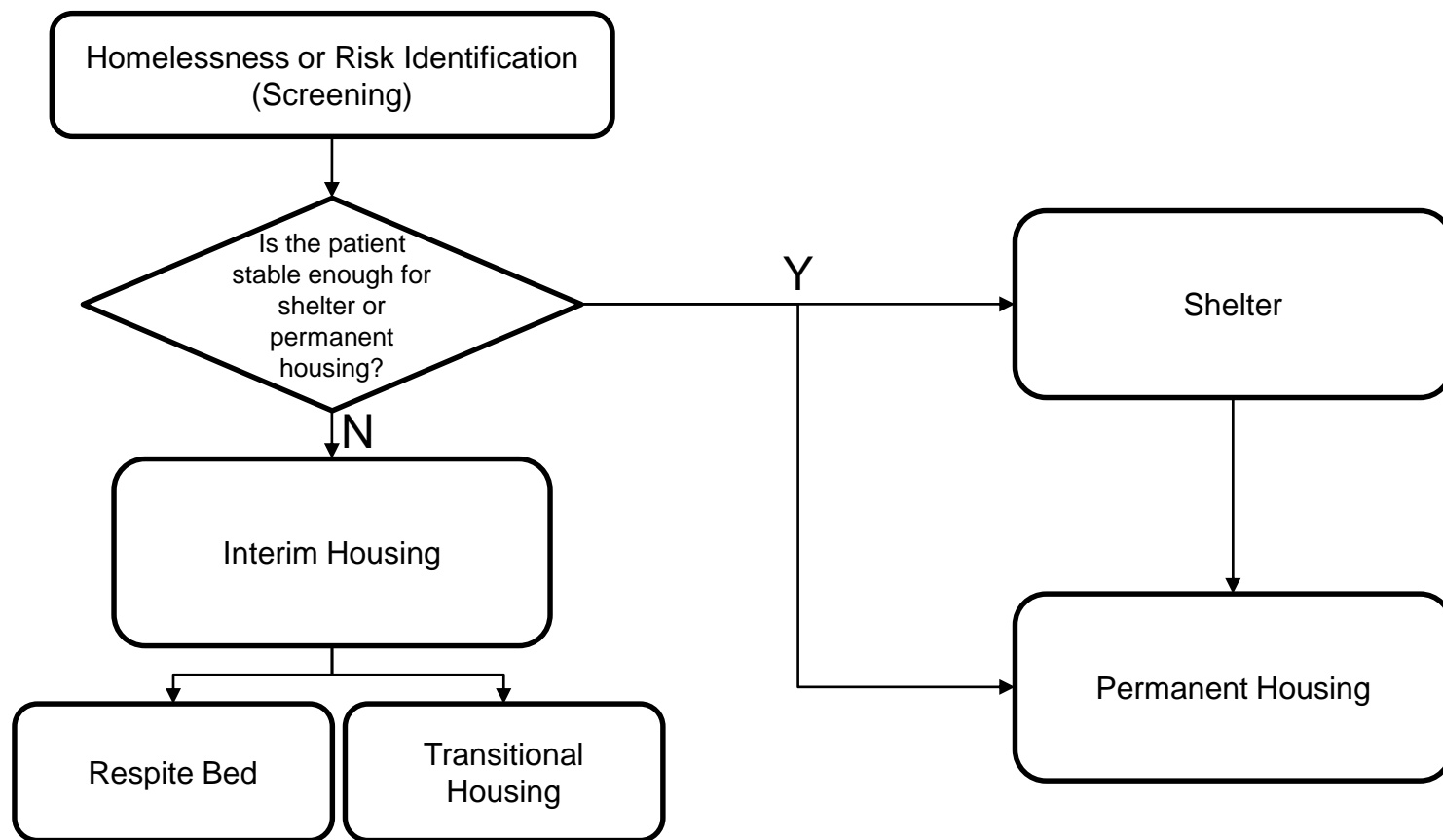
Data Sharing

Does your hospital electronically exchange patient information with health care providers outside of your health care organization?



Source: HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Discharge Planning



Staffing

- Peer Support Specialist
- Case Manager
- Social Worker
- Innovations from your communities?

Respite Beds

- In hospital
- In shelter
- Respite facility
- Innovations from your communities?

Contact Information

- Please feel free to contact me at nporter@naeh.org!

