Appendix A

Interview Guide for Integration of Social Determinants of Health into the UHealth Electronic Health Record

We held meetings with stakeholders and engaged them using the questions below as a roadmap for the conversation. An assistant took detailed notes to document the content of the meetings.

What have you heard regarding the use of social determinants of health for clinical purposes?

Let us share with you some data that you may find interesting…

We shared information in graph form regarding the impact of SDH on outcomes relevant to our health system (diabetes control, Congestive Heart Failure readmission, costs) and a summary of the article “Patients in context—EHR capture of social and behavioral determinants of health” (Adler, N. E., and W. W. Stead, New England Journal of Medicine 372, no. 8 [2015]: 698–701). We also shared the Institute of Medicine (IOM) proposed tool.

After sharing the data, we asked:

Are you surprised by the data?

What role do you think SDH play on outcomes at our health system?

If we were planning to collect SDH across UHealth to improve quality metrics and outcomes, what would be your reaction?

What benefits do you see to integrating SDH data (from the IOM tool) into the electronic health record?

What risks do you see?

Do you think the benefits outweigh the risks?

What steps could we take that would make the benefits of the intervention outweigh the risks?

What key barriers do you see for the collection of SDH data?

Can you give concrete examples of your concerns for the xx barrier (based on the prior answer, e.g., regulatory, legal, workflow, lack of resources to collect data or address SDH, etc.)?

What key barriers or facilitators do you think are intrinsic to the intervention characteristics (examples are potential impact on outcomes, complexity, costs, how easy to test or adapt innovation, risk/benefit ratio, etc.)?
Do you have recommendations to minimize those intervention-based barriers?

What barriers or facilitators do you think are intrinsic to the state of our health system or the individuals that constitute it (e.g., organizational structure, culture, readiness for the innovation, resources, time, knowing how to use the data, etc.)?

How could we minimize health system barriers?

How do you think external factors affect the implementation of this innovation (e.g., Affordable Care Act incentives, Medicare mandates or penalization, competitors, expectations from patients, etc.)?

How do you think the processes we choose to implement the collection and use of SDH data could hinder or facilitate success?

What would be an ideal process to collect and to react to the data to improve our outcomes?

How can you or your office facilitate that process?

*Depending on responses and the role of the interviewee in the health system, we would ask questions in reference to the threats we identified in our team’s SWOT analysis. Examples are the following:*

What are your perspectives regarding privacy issues

What are your perspectives on best strategies to collect SDH data?

Where would you pilot test this innovation first?

Who do you think should have access to the data and be responsible for reacting to the data *(if not mentioned before)*?

Should we focus only on selected populations or target the entire health system?

What resources do you think are lacking to facilitate the effective use of the SDH data? How could we secure those resources?