

THE SPARK TOOL IMPLEMENTATION STUDY:

A PILOT PROJECT TO BETTER COLLECT & USE INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN PRIMARY CARE



We are looking for primary care practices who are interested in implementing the SPARK Tool in their practice. This electronic survey tool captures information about social determinants of health from patients by direct email or while at the practice. Our study will include co-designing the best way to adopt this into your practice and how the social data could be used to help address patient needs.

TIMELINES

- Study will take place from August 2024 to April 2027
- Your participation will last approximately one year

WORKLOAD

- **Clinician Champion:**
 - lead the implementation of the SPARK tool in their practice;
 - act as liaison between the study team and practice.
 - complete a practice readiness/needs assessment e-survey.
 - complete a post-implementation feedback e-survey or interview & participate in co-design sessions (either in-person or virtual)
 - troubleshoot SPARK Tool implementation issues & assist the study team with recruiting 2-3 patients for co-design sessions.
- **Practice staff & clinicians:**
 - up to 10 people can participate in the co-design sessions, interviews, and/or e-surveys (ideally some consistency throughout the study but not required).



HONORARIA

- \$2500 for one clinician champion at each site
- \$500 to the practice to cover study-related costs, staff time, etc.
- The study will cover the costs of any hardware/software needed to integrate the SPARK tool into the practice (eg. Ocean/Pomelo, tablets for surveys)

REB24-0746

PI: Dr. Kerry McBrien

Study poster version 1.1, 10/10/24

More about the SPARK Tool

What kinds of questions are included in the SPARK Tool?

See the following page for a copy of the SPARK tool.

How was the SPARK Tool developed?

<https://bmcprimcare.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12875-023-02173-8>

What's the latest update on the SPARK Tool?

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uEGP6g7aQdMb26lluJ6ZbkeT7dSFC7BYzm1T0F1dRu0/edit>



for more information, email sapcren@ucalgary.ca

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UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

SPARK Tool

Screening for Poverty And Related Social determinants to improve Knowledge of and links to resources (SPARK)

Demographics

- 1 Language**
a) If available, would you prefer your healthcare appointments offered in another language?
b) If yes, which language?
- 2 Born in Canada**
a) Were you born in Canada?
b) If no, when did you arrive?
- 3 Indigenous Identity**
a) Do you identify as an Indigenous person?*
- b) If yes, are you Status (Registered or Treaty Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada)?*
- c) If yes, Inuk/Inuit, are you a member of an Inuit land claims agreement?*

*This data must be collected with engagement with local First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governance bodies in accordance with the First Nations OCAP, Métis OCAP, and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit data governance and sovereignty principles.

- 4 Race**
In our society, people are often described by their race or racial background. Our race may influence the way we are treated by individuals and institutions, and this may affect our health. Which category(ies) best describes you? Select all that apply.
- 5 People with Disabilities**
Do you currently experience any of the following due to a severe and persistent physical or mental condition? Select all that apply.
- 6 Sex at Birth**
What was your sex at birth?
- 7 Gender Identity**
What is your gender identity?
- 8 Sexual Orientation**
Which category(ies) best describe your sexual orientation? Select all that apply.

Social needs

- 9 Education**
What is your current level of education?
- 10 Income/Finances**
Do you currently have difficulty paying for basic needs?
- 11 Food Security**
Please respond to the following statements:
a) "Within the past 12 months, we worried whether our food would run out before we could buy or get more."
b) "Within the past 12 months, the food we bought just didn't last and we could not buy or get more."
- 12 Medication Access**
In the past 12 months, were you unable to get medicine or medical supplies, or did you do anything to make them last longer *because of the cost*?
- 13 Housing**
a) What is your current housing situation?
b) Who do you live with? Select all that apply.
c) In the past 12 months, was there a time when you were not able to pay the mortgage or rent on time?
- 14 Transportation**
In the past 12 months, has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living? Select all that apply.
- 15 Phone and Internet Access**
Do you currently have consistent access to a phone or the internet?
- 16 Utilities**
In the past 12 months, did you miss making a payment on any utility bills (e.g., electricity, gas/oil, water) *because of cost*?
- 17 Social Supports**
a) Do you feel you have people who you can open up to or confide in?
b) Do you have people to rely on if you needed help?
- 18 Employment**
a) Are you currently employed (this includes self-employed, full-time, part-time or other)?
If no:
b) Are you currently looking for work?
If yes:
c) Is your main job temporary or part-time (e.g., casual, contract, freelance, short-term, seasonal)?
d) Do you feel that your current employment could be negatively affected if you raised concerns about your work (e.g., health, safety, rights)?
e) In the past 12 months, did your income change a lot from month to month?

? Descriptors Patients can click on a hyperlinked "?" beside each question to learn about each question's purpose, a definition of terms, and why it is being asked.



Optional Questions

- 1 Ethnicity**
What is your ethnic or cultural background? (e.g., Chinese, Filipino, Guyanese, Scottish, Somali, Korean)
- 2 Religion**
What is your religious or spiritual affiliation? Select all that apply.

Itunuoluwa Adekoya, Alannah Delahunty-Pike, Dana Howse, Leanne Kosowan, Zita Seshie, Eunice Abaga, Jane Cooney, Marjeiry Robinson, Dorothy Senior, Lynn Thompson, Alexander Zsager, Kris Aubrey-Bassler, Frederick Burge, Mandi Irwin, Lois Jackson, Alan Katz, Emily Marshall, Nazeem Muhajarine, Cory Neudorf, Andrew D. Pinto. Screening for Poverty And Related Social determinants to improve Knowledge of and links to resources (SPARK): development and cognitive testing of a tool for primary care. BMC Primary Care. 2023;24(247):1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12875-023-02173-8>

Learn more: visit upstreamlab.org/spark or contact upstreamlab@unityhealth.to

UPSTREAMLAB

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