

## **Hurricanes and Other Disasters**

The recent hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria ravaged Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, respectively. These natural disasters have and will continue for months and perhaps years to be a struggle for many people who have been violently affected physically and emotionally by floods, property destruction, and loss of life. Such traumatic events can trigger mental health issues or exacerbate existing ones. In Florida, as the hurricane recovery process continues, clinicians will see an influx of patients seeking care for issues related to Hurricane Irma. This presents opportunities for clinicians to recognize and report the impacts of such traumatic events on patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) and clinicians' offices with stress-related symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, abdominal pain, and other conditions related to stress. In a recent two-part write-up called "Hurricanes Prompt Urgent Focus on Documenting Social Determinants of Health," ICD10 Monitor urges clinicians to identify and capture the psychosocial circumstances that impact health during the immediate time, coming months, and post-recovery stages after hurricane disasters, not only to improve quality care to individual patients, but also to allow tracking of such information over time to inform clinicians and other healthcare workers of the short and long-term effects of hurricane disasters.

To learn more about the identification, coding, and reporting of the social determinants of health relevant to hurricanes, visit the following links:

Hurricanes Prompt Urgent Focus on Documenting Social Determinants of Health: Part 1

<https://www.icd10monitor.com/hurricanes-prompt-urgent-focus-on-documenting-social-determinants-of-health-part-i>

Hurricanes Prompt Urgent Focus on Documenting Social Determinants of Health: Part 2

<https://www.icd10monitor.com/hurricanes-prompt-urgent-focus-on-documenting-social-determinants-of-health-part-ii>