

HHS Food Is Medicine Analytic Framework:

Domains and Indicators

as of 9/2024



Summary of FIM Analytic Framework Domains and Indicators of Success

Domain	Domain Definition	Indicators of Success
<p>Person and Household Impacts</p>	<p>Measurement that assesses individual patient/participant and household spillover effects resulting from FIM interventions. Patient/participant indicators should be assessed consistently across all types of FIM interventions, as appropriate for the setting, level of patient engagement, and burden reduction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation in FIM interventions • Improved access to healthy food, aligned to diet-related health state needs • Improved person-centered health outcomes
<p>Health System Impacts</p>	<p>Measurement that demonstrates how the complement of institutions organizations, and resources collaborate to promote, sustain, or restore health. The health systems impact domain focuses on measuring aspects of the system - capabilities, actions, and resources - that enable the provision of FIM services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased availability of high-quality FIM interventions • Increased health system performance • Increased integration of health care system and community-based organizations
<p>Community Health and Food Access Effects</p>	<p>Measurement that considers key aspect of community systems and their ability to support overall health through FIM for a group of people assessed through non-clinical indicators of health improvement, disease prevention, health disparity reduction, and resource access. Communities often overlap and can be understood as connected by geography, cultural relationships, or other relational qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to healthy food within communities • Increased access to community-valued nutrition interventions • Increased community economic benefit
<p>Agri-food Quality and Production Effects</p>	<p>Measurement that considers the relationship of FIM to agriculture production techniques, the nutritional quality of food that benefits people and environment, and the financial health of local/regional farmers and makers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased healthy regional food procurement spending • Strengthened local food economy Increased support of regional food producers • Local food systems transformation and expansion

FIM Analytic Framework Indicator Selection Assessment Criteria

Indicator Selection Criteria	High	Moderate	Low
<p>Relevant Reflects an issue that is important to stakeholders and is consistent with measurement dimensions.</p>	<p>Indicator is strongly aligned to present FIM effort and stakeholder priorities</p>	<p>Indicator is generally aligned to FIM effort and stakeholder priorities</p>	<p>Indicator has little or no alignment to FIM effort and stakeholder priorities</p>
<p>Actionable Informs policy and resource alignment, alters behavior of health care providers, and/or increases understanding by partnership groups regarding the relationship of food to improve health.</p>	<p>Indicator provides high-value information that can inform policy and practice advancement</p>	<p>Indicator partially provides high-value information that can inform policy and practice advancement</p>	<p>Indicator lacks alignment to high-value information that can inform policy and practice advancement</p>
<p>Measurable Reasonably measured within ongoing program implementation settings supported by data sources that efficiently assess the indicator, can be collected across contexts, and minimizes collection burden.</p>	<p>Indicator is specified in terms of measures that can be applied across various contexts and populations</p>	<p>Indicator applies to a limited range of measures that can be applied across various contexts and populations</p>	<p>Indicator has no measures that can be applied across various contexts and populations</p>
<p>Sensitive to Change Supports the ability to identify change or lack of change over time rather than static understanding.</p>	<p>Directly affected by one or more intervention</p>	<p>Indirectly affected by one or more intervention</p>	<p>Unaffected by intervention</p>
<p>Scientifically Sound Objectively based on valid and reproducible research aligned to high quality measures.</p>	<p>Widely cited as having a valid and reliable causal relationship between the sub-domain and the indicator</p>	<p>Some published evidence of the causal relationship between the sub-domain and the indicator</p>	<p>No published evidence of the relationship between the sub-domain and the indicator</p>
<p>Community-valued Considers lived-experience and cultural relevance perspectives and reflected across measurement dimensions.</p>	<p>Indicator is representative of a concept considered important to those with lived-experience</p>	<p>Indicator partially representative of a concept considered important to those with lived-experience</p>	<p>Indicator is not representative of a concept considered important to those with lived-experience</p>

Person and Household Impacts

Domain Definition

Measurement that assesses individual patient/participant and household spillover effects resulting from FIM interventions. Patient/participant indicators should be assessed consistently across all types of FIM interventions, as appropriate for the setting, level of patient engagement, and burden reduction.

Indicators of Success

- **Increased participation in Food Is Medicine interventions**
- **Improved access to healthy food, aligned to diet-related health state needs**
- **Improved person-centered health outcomes**

Sub-domain	Indicator
Demographics	
Nutrition, diet quality, and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security • Nutrition security • Diet quality • Malnutrition (in treatment settings for highly vulnerable populations) • Food satisfaction (provided through FIM intervention) • Food consumption (provided through FIM intervention) • Nutrition literacy and habit change
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet-related diagnoses (provider reported) • Treatment adherence • Receipt of appropriate nutrition care and education • Medication adherence and tolerance • Symptoms and symptom burden • Patient reported physical health outcomes (PROMS) • Patient reported experience of health care services (PREMS) • Mental health • Quality of life: physical component • Quality of life: mental component • Loneliness and social isolation • Patient outcomes <p><i>Specific clinical outcome indicators and measures should be employed. Clinical indicators should be health condition specific and determined appropriate based on the setting, adequate number of patients with specific health condition, and clinical expertise of the patient population measures. Indicators should leverage existing validated data that reduce burden for patient data collection.</i></p> <p><i>Research supports prioritizing indicators associated with disease outcomes reasonably supported by evidence that nutrition intervention would be beneficial to disease outcomes. Specifically, diabetes, high blood pressure, gut health, and pregnancy.</i></p>
Economic effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs tradeoffs • Public assistance program eligibility and enrollment
Spillover effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver health (including parents) • Secondary effects of FIM intervention on other household members • Food sharing

Health Systems Impacts

Domain Definition

Measurement that demonstrates how the complement of institutions organizations, and resources collaborate to promote, sustain, or restore health. The health systems impact domain focuses on measuring aspects of the system - capabilities, actions, and resources - that enable the provision of FIM services.

Indicators of Success

- **Increased availability of high-quality FIM interventions**
- **Increased health system performance**
- **Increased integration of health care system and community-based organizations**

Sub-domain	Indicator
Healthcare utilization and cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions or readmissions • Care coordination and care plan • Care utilization • Acute care vs preventive care use • Average length of stay • No-show rates and missed appointments • Discharge location • Medication adherence • Total cost of care • Cost-effectiveness / savings
Health outcomes & quality of patient population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall health status • Quality of life: physical component • Quality of life: mental component • Food security prevalence • Diet quality • Malnutrition diagnosis • Condition specific clinical outcomes <p><i>Specific clinical outcome indicators and measures should be employed. Clinical indicators should be health condition specific and determined appropriate based on the setting, adequate number of patients with specific health condition, and clinical expertise of the patient population measures. Indicators should leverage existing validated data that reduce burden for patient data collection.</i></p> <p><i>Research supports prioritizing indicators associated with disease outcomes reasonably supported by evidence that nutrition intervention would be beneficial to disease outcomes. Specifically, diabetes, high blood pressure, gut health, and pregnancy.</i></p>
Health system structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral completion rate to disease management programs • Adherence to disease management programs • Health care capacity • Integration of community-based organizations into care flow • Patient interest / navigation acceptability to FIM program • Referrals to FIM program • Food security screening • Provider comfort discussing nutrition needs • Integration of food/nutrition screening process into care workflow • Referral workflow for positive food/nutrition screening

Sub-domain	Indicator
Patient reported experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional status • Symptoms and symptom burden • Quality of patient-provider relationship • Satisfaction with care • Patient enrollment and retention rate to payer/health system • Patient reported physical health outcomes (PROMS) • Patient reported experience of health care services (PREMS)
Provider effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider satisfaction • Provider retention
Program fidelity, implementation, acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time from referral to FIM program service receipt • Program receipt/completion • Adherence to programs (across program) / Dropout rate • FIM program/intervention delivery structure • Food provided aligns to nutrition and quality standards (as identified by program/intervention) • Culturally responsive food provision • Receipt of appropriate nutrition care and education (provision of medical nutrition therapy; nutrition education and counseling) • Program adherence to best practices • Sustainable funding mechanisms

Community Health and Food Access Effects

Domain Definition

Measurement that considers key aspect of community systems and their ability to support overall health through FIM for a group of people assessed through non-clinical indicators of health improvement, disease prevention, health disparity reduction, and resource access. Communities often overlap and can be understood as connected by geography, cultural relationships, or other relational qualities.

Indicators of Success

- **Increased access to community-valued nutrition interventions**
- **Increased access to healthy food within communities**
- **Increased community economic benefit**

Sub-domain	Indicator
Community health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health related social needs prevalence • Social isolation and social connection • Diet-related disease prevalence • Population nutrition literacy
Community healthy food access infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and culturally diverse food availability within community • Healthy and culturally diverse food affordability within community • Healthy and culturally diverse food access within community • Small business participation and investment in healthy food access
Community network capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of healthcare system and community-based organizations • Social service network diversity and capacity • Public assistance referrals and utilization • Workforce capacity and shortages
Program fidelity, implementation, acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time from referral to FIM program service receipt • Program completion/receipt • Adherence to programs (across program) / Dropout rate • FIM program/intervention delivery structure • Food provided aligns to nutrition and quality standards (as identified by program/intervention) • Culturally responsive food provision • Receipt of appropriate nutrition care and education (provision of medical nutrition therapy; nutrition education and counseling) • Program adherence to best practices • Sustainable funding mechanisms

Agri-food Quality and Production Effects

Domain Definition

Measurement that considers the relationship of FIM to agriculture production techniques, the nutritional quality of food that benefits people and environment, and the financial health of local/regional farmers and makers.

Indicators of Success

- **Increased healthy regional food procurement spending**
- **Strengthened local food economy Increased support of regional food producers**
- **Local food systems transformation and expansion**

Sub-domain	Indicator
Economic Benefits to farmers/producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food purchase contracts yield• Farm/production financial stability• Farm/producer revenue from FIM programs• Range of participating farms/producers
Farming Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production practices• Variety of food grown / produced
Local economy value chain benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic impact / multipliers• Local jobs created• Utilization of farm/producer production• Healthy food distribution to community