

Poverty is not always apparent: In Alberta, 8.2% of families live in poverty.<sup>1</sup>

## 1 Screen Everyone

**“Do you ever have difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month?”**

(Sensitivity 98%, specificity 40% for living below the poverty line)<sup>2</sup>

## 2 Poverty is a Risk Factor

Consider:

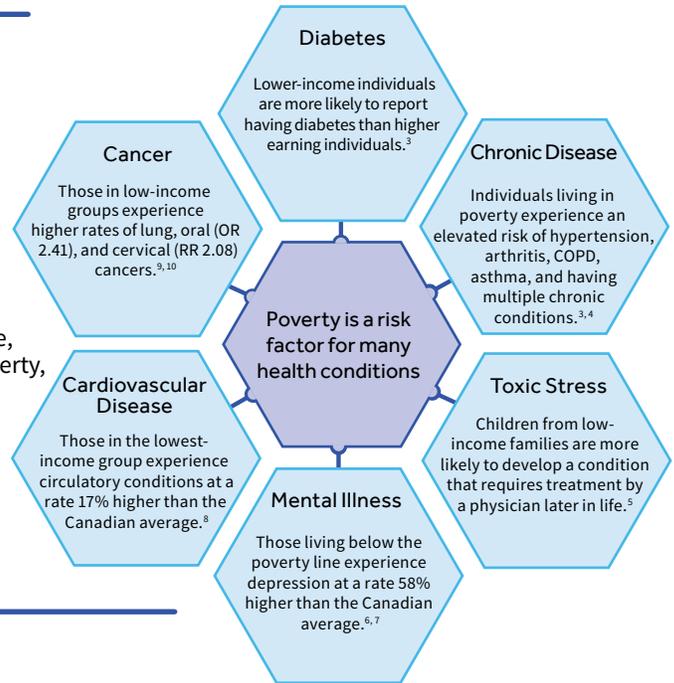
New immigrants, women, Indigenous peoples, and LGBTQ+ are among the highest risk groups.

Example 1:

If an otherwise healthy 35-year-old comes to your office, without risk factors for diabetes other than living in poverty, you consider ordering a screening test for diabetes.

Example 2:

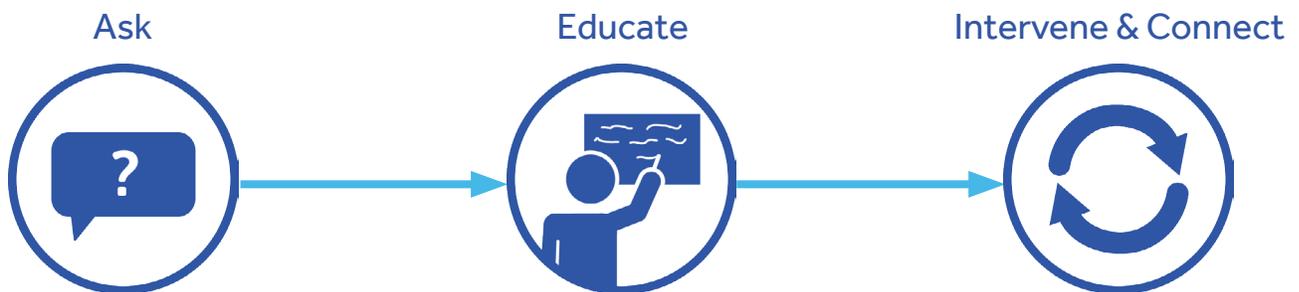
If an otherwise low-risk patient who lives in poverty presents with chest pain, this elevates the pre-test probability of a cardiac source and helps determine how aggressive you are in ordering investigations.



## 3 Intervene

**Ask Everyone: “Have you filled out and sent in your tax forms?”**

- Ask questions to find out more about your patient—their employment, living situation, social supports, and the benefits they receive. Tax returns are required to access many income security benefits: e.g., GST / HST credits, child benefits, working income tax benefits, and property tax credits. Connect your patients to [Free Community Tax Clinics](#).
- Even people without official residency status can file returns.
- Drug Coverage: All Albertans have access to prescription drug benefits through the Alberta government sponsored drug program. Visit [drugcoverage.ca](http://drugcoverage.ca) to see what benefits you may be eligible for.



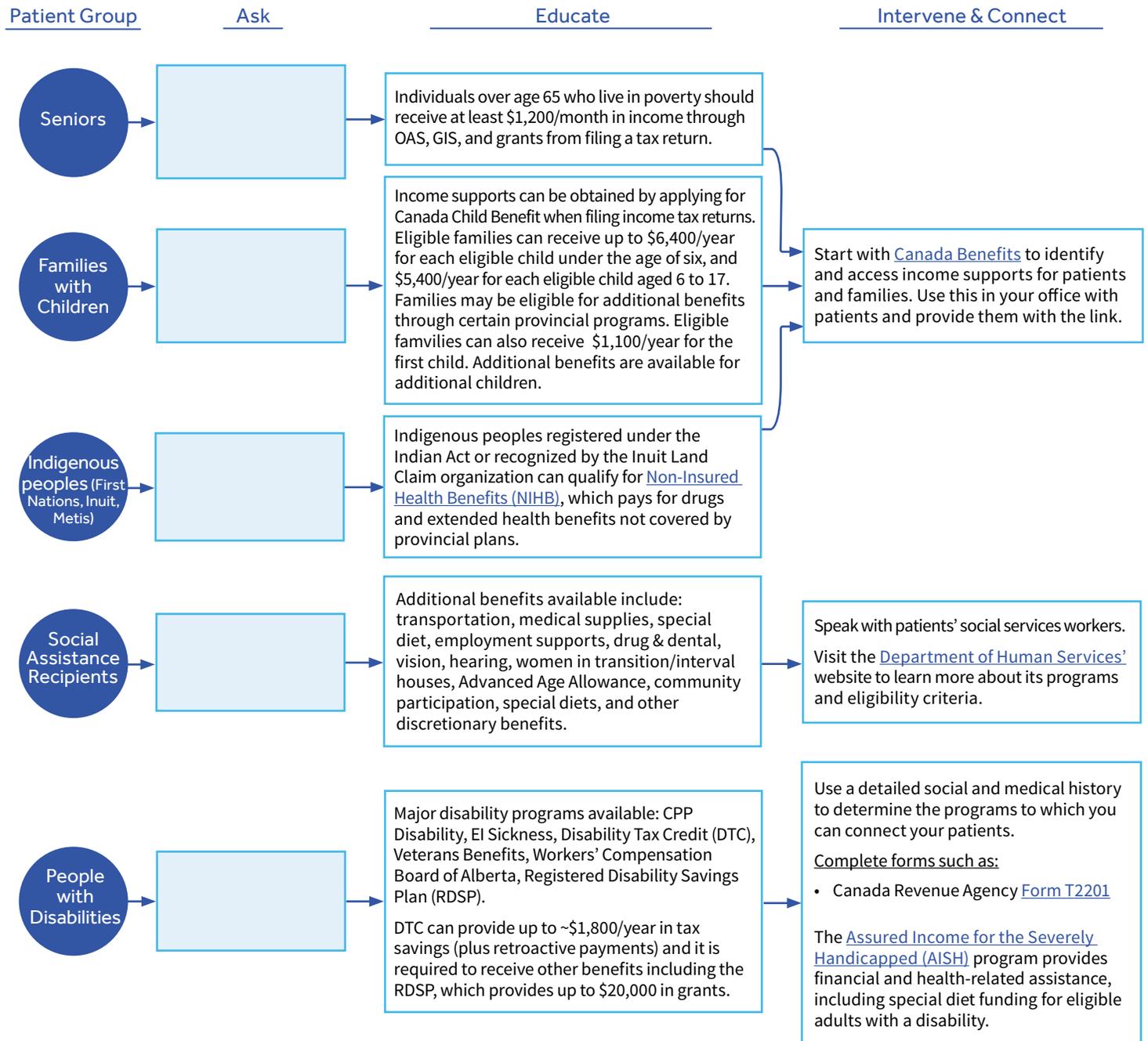
Ask questions to find out more about your patient—their living situation, and the benefits they currently receive.

Ensure you and your team are aware of resources available to patients and their families. Start with [Canada Benefits](#) and [2-1-1](#).

Intervene by connecting your patients and their families to benefits, resources, and services.

[more interventions on reverse](#) ↻

# Intervening can have a profound impact on your patients' health



## Key Resources

<p><a href="#">Canada Benefits</a> (<a href="http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca">www.canadabenefits.gc.ca</a>)</p> <p>Provides a full listing of federal and provincial income and other supports, organized by personal status (e.g., "parent," "Indigenous peoples") or life situation (e.g., "unemployment," "health concerns"), with links to the relevant program websites and to application forms.</p>	<p><a href="#">2-1-1</a> (<a href="http://www.ab.211.ca">www.ab.211.ca</a>)</p> <p>Call 2-1-1 or browse the website to find community support and advocacy organizations, based on topic and location.</p>	<p><a href="#">LawCentral Alberta</a> (<a href="http://www.lawcentralalberta.ca">www.lawcentralalberta.ca</a>)</p> <p>Provides law-related information and educational resources on justice and legal issues of interest to Albertans.</p>
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**Remember:** As health care providers, it is our responsibility to provide complete and detailed information that accurately portrays our patients' health status and disabilities.  
 It is **NOT** our role to serve as the gatekeepers for income security.

# Supporting Material\*

- [i] Free Community Tax Clinics: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vlntr/clncs/ab-eng.html>
- [ii] DrugCoverage.ca: <http://www.drugcoverage.ca>
- [iii] Canada Benefits: <http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca/>
- [iv] 2-1-1 Alberta: <http://www.ab.211.ca/>
- [v] Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php)
- [vi] PovNet: <http://www.povnet.org/regional/alberta>
- [vii] Form T2201: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/README.html>
- [viii] Alberta's Department of Human Services: <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/>
- [ix] Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta: <https://www.wcb.ab.ca/>
- [x] To see who is an eligible Non-Insured Health Benefits Client: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/benefit-prestati/index-eng.php>
- [xi] Fact Sheet on Systemic Racism on Indigenous Peoples in Canada: [http://www.cfpc.ca/uploadedFiles/Resources/PDFs/SystemicRacism\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.cfpc.ca/uploadedFiles/Resources/PDFs/SystemicRacism_ENG.pdf)
- [xii] National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health's "Poverty as a Social Determinant of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Health": [http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/21/2015\\_02\\_16\\_FS\\_SDOH\\_Poverty\\_Updated\\_EN\\_Web.pdf](http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/21/2015_02_16_FS_SDOH_Poverty_Updated_EN_Web.pdf)
- [xiii] End Poverty Edmonton: <http://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca/about/>
- [xiv] Homeless Hub (AB and national data): <http://homelesshub.ca>
- [xv] Alberta Health Drug Benefit List: [https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/idbl\\_main1.html](https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/idbl_main1.html)
- [xvi] Homeward Trust: <http://www.homewardtrust.ca/home.php>
- [xvii] Homeless Connect: <http://www.homewardtrust.ca/programs/homeless-connect.php>
- [xviii] Alberta Income Support: [www.humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/689.html](http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/689.html)
- [xix] Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH): [www.humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services/aish.htm](http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services/aish.htm)
- [xx] 8-1-1 Health Link: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/link/index.html>
- [xxi] About the Canada Child Benefit program: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/t4114/t4114-e.html>
- [xxii] How to calculate your Canada Child Benefit: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/ccb/clcltyrccb-eng.html>

\*These supporting materials are hosted by external organizations, and as such the accuracy and accessibility of their links are not guaranteed. CEP will make every effort to keep these links up to date.

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## References

- [1] Hudson, CA. Poverty costs 2.5: Investing in Albertans [Internet]. Calgary: Vibrant Communities Calgary and Action to End Poverty in Alberta; 2014 [cited 2016 Apr 28]. Available from: [http://vibrantcalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/PCosts\\_2\\_Investing\\_In\\_Albertans\\_web.pdf](http://vibrantcalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/PCosts_2_Investing_In_Albertans_web.pdf)  
\*Please note that the measure used to calculate this statistic is the Low Income Measure after tax.
- [2] Bric V, Eberdt C, Kaczorowski J. Corrigendum to Development of a tool to identify poverty in a family practice setting: A pilot study. *Int J Family Med* [Internet]. 2015 Sep 21 [cited 2016 Apr 22]; 1-7. doi: 10.1155/2015/418125
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