EXOGENOUS FACTORS LIKE THE COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE WORK, THE HOMES WHERE THEY LIVE, CONDITIONS SUCH AS DEPRESSION, AND BEHAVIORAL INFLUENCES LIKE DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE HAVE A LARGE IMPACT ON HEALTH VARIANCE. So does socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, education, family structure, diet, exercise, employment, and environment.

COMMUNITY SERVICES
To help patients, providers can connect with community services: behavioral health specialists, social workers, transportation coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, and attorneys.

To manage population health, healthcare organizations must integrate the medical services they provide with the full range of social services each patient needs. Here’s how:

MEDICAL SERVICES
• Screen patients for social determinants
• Conduct comprehensive health assessments
• Connect patients to needed community and behavioral health services

HEALTH IT
• Facilitate communication and care coordination between members of multidisciplinary teams
• Employ data analytics to collect actionable information on the clinical, social, behavioral, and functional-status dimensions of health
• Use cognitive computing/natural language processing to turn EHR progress notes and social worker case reports into actionable data