Pathways to Improve Health Equity

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National Quality Strategy

Better Care

Healthier People, Healthier Communities

Smarter Spending

PRIORITIES

Make care safer by reducing harm caused in the delivery of care.

Strengthen person and family engagement as partners in care.

Promote effective communication and coordination of care.

Promote effective prevention and treatment of chronic disease.

Work with communities to promote best practices of healthy living.

Make care affordable.
Health Equity and Diverse Workforce
The Equity Chasm

Disparities Chasm

Actual Care for the Disadvantaged

Inequitable: Uninsurance, Poverty, Language, Culture, Bias

Actual Care for the Advantaged

Actual Care

Quality Chasm

Ineffective, Unsafe, Untimely, Not Patient Centered, Inefficient

High Quality Care

Quality Improvement for the Disadvantaged

Ineffective, Unsafe, Untimely, Not Patient Centered, Inefficient, Inequitable

Actual Care for the Disadvantaged

High Quality Care

Ernest Moy (AHRQ)
Patient Outcomes and Risk Factors

Outcome due to healthcare and patient-related risk factors
Social Determinants of Health

- The complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic systems that are responsible for most health inequities...[including] the social environment, physical environment, health services, and structural and societal factors.”

“conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, play, and pray (that) affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.”

https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/definitions.html
Need to Consider Medical and Social Risk

Worse outcomes for beneficiaries with social risk factors

High medical risk (measured)
High medical risk (unmeasured)
Higher social risk (measured)
Higher social risk (unmeasured)
Quality of care
Social support and environment

Accounting for Risk Factors in Medicare Payment: National Academy of Medicine, 2017
Critical Linkages: Social Determinants, Healthcare Delivery, and Data
# Data Availability for Social Risk Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL RISK FACTOR</th>
<th>DATA AVAILABILITY</th>
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<td><strong>Indicator</strong></td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Other environmental measures</td>
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1. Available for use now
2. Available for use now for some outcomes, but research needed for improved, future use
3. Not sufficiently available now; research needed for improved, future use
4. Research needed to better understand relationship with health care outcomes and on how to best collect data
Promoting Health Equity and Reducing Disparities

A Roadmap for Promoting Health Equity and Reducing Disparities

Identify and Prioritize Reducing Health Disparities

Incentivize the Reduction of Health Disparities and Achievement of Health Equity

Invest in the Development and Use of Health Equity Performance Measures

Implement Evidence-Based Interventions to Reduce Disparities

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Council of Medical Specialty Societies
“Failure to take social risk into account can have real negative consequences for clinicians and for patients.”
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