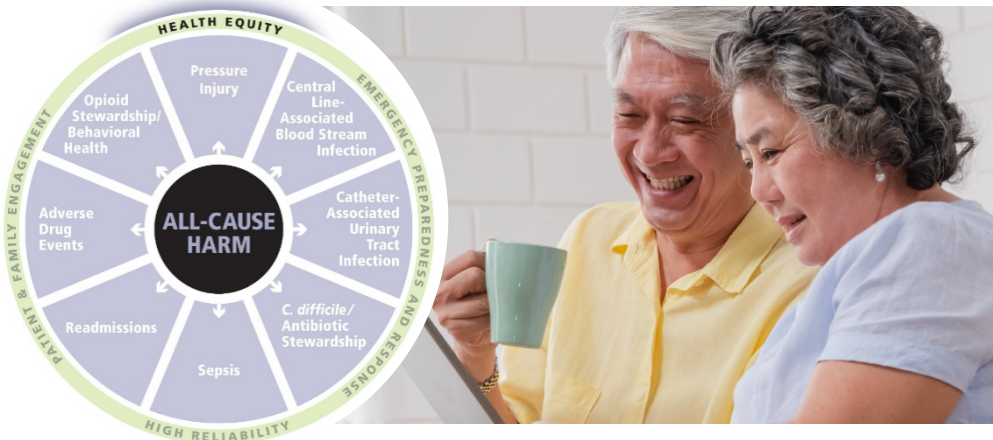


HEALTH EQUITY HIGHLIGHTS

November 2021



November is National Diabetes Month!

Visit the [CMS OMH website](#) for resources to help promote diabetes awareness.

November 18th is Rural Health Day!

To further support the health of rural communities and recognize [National Rural Health Day](#), please [register](#) to join CMS, along with representatives from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the CDC, for a partner webinar to discuss federal COVID-19 resources, health care workforce mandates, health care coverage related to the COVID-19 vaccine, and more.

Date: Monday, November 15

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator for Partnerships to Address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Research indicates that complex patients tend to benefit from a holistic model of health care that addresses some of the SDOHs, such as transportation, housing, and nutrition in addition to medical needs. [The Commonwealth Fund](#) offers an [ROI Calculator](#) at no cost, that is intended to assist community-based organizations and their health system partners plan sustainable financial arrangements to fund the delivery of social services to high-need, high-cost patients. This patient population accounts for a large share of overall health care spending, often have social needs, clinically complex conditions, cognitive or physical limitations, and/or behavioral health problems. The ROI Calculator is a tool for health systems, payers, medical providers, social service providers, and community-based organizations seeking to address SDOH.

The ROI Calculator has supporting resources to guide organizations through the strategic process, including:

- [SDOH Table](#): Describes the non-medical services supported by the tool.
- [Data Checklist](#): An overview of the inputs that organizations will need to use this tool.
- [Average Cost & Utilization Table](#): Provides national average health care utilization rates and costs of services for patients with complex needs and all adults living in the community.
- [Evidence Review](#): A collection of relevant evidence on the impact of health-related social needs interventions from peer-reviewed and gray literature.
- [Step-by-Step Guide](#): This hypothetical case example demonstrates how to use the Average Cost and Utilization Tables and the Evidence Guide to derive relevant inputs and impacts needed by the calculator.
- [Calculation Guide](#): Provides explanations of formulas the tool uses to calculate its results.
- [Use Cases](#): Learn how community-based and health care organizations have used the ROI Calculator to determine the value of health-related social services and develop contractual partnerships to pay for them.

In the News

[CDC Launches New Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)

CDC encourages all public health professionals and partners at the federal, state, and local levels to apply the following principles across their public health communication work, including when creating information resources and presentations, when engaging with partners, and/or when developing and reviewing external or internal communication materials:

- [Using a health equity lens](#) when framing information about health disparities.
- Considering the [key principles](#), such as using person-first language and avoiding unintentional blaming.
- Using [preferred terms](#) for select population groups while recognizing that there isn't always agreement on these terms.
- Considering how communications are developed and looking for ways to develop more [inclusive health communications products](#).
- Exploring other [resources and references](#) related to health equity communications.

For more information about Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication by visiting CDC's website.

[Tenant-Based Housing Voucher Programs Advance Health Equity](#)

The [Community Preventive Services Task Force \(CPSTF\)](#) recommends tenant-based housing voucher programs to improve health-related outcomes and advance health equity for households with low incomes. The CPSTF recommendation is based on evidence from a systematic review of seven studies across 20 publications. The CPSTF finds the societal benefits exceed the cost of the housing voucher programs and allows families to move to neighborhoods with greater opportunities.

[Achieving Zero Inequity: Lessons Learned from Patient Safety](#)

This insightful commentary by Tejal Gandhi, MD, MPH, CPPS reflects on the growing importance of addressing health equity in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent social injustice events. Dr. Gandhi summarizes key strategies and lessons learned that have evolved over the last two decades in the realm of patient safety and explains how this information can now be applied to inform strategic efforts to improve equity in health care.



For more health equity news: <https://qi.ipro.org/health-equity-resources/>

Upcoming Events

[Digital Health Equity Summit](#)

Addressing Inequities & Building a Modern Healthcare System

eHealth Initiative (eHI)

Date: November 3 - 4, 2021

[Structural Level Determinants of Rural Health Disparities](#)

National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM ET