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- Qlarant
- Kentucky Hospital Association
- Q3 Health Innovation Partners
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HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

February 2022



February is American Heart Month

African Americans ages 18-49 are two times as likely to die from heart disease than whites.

The OMH knowledge center features [several resources](#) on disparities for hypertension prevention.

The Grady Heart Failure Program provides a [guide](#) on addressing disparities among heart failure patients.

The National Partnership for Women and Families Releases Patient and Family Engagement Resources focused on Improving Health and Advancing Equity

The Nation Partnership for Patient and Family Engagement released a suite of [resources](#) on patient and family engagement (PFE) resources. The resources were accompanied by a report on [Improving Health and Advancing Equity](#) which outlines recommendations for healthcare providers and decisionmakers, these include:

- Being transparent about the demographics of study participants when designing health care policies and programs
- Make publicly available the shared decision-making, goal setting, and other engagement tools that are used in PCORI-funded studies
- Strengthen provider training in skills necessary for PFE.
- Improve diversity in hiring
- Maximize options for access and communication by offering a variety of modalities to connect with and engage patients and their families
- Consider varying levels of patient literacy and numeracy when implementing PFE interventions
- Select and use algorithms in ways that prioritize health equity
- Foster a learning environment for continuous improvement

Included in their [toolkit](#) of PFE resources are curated tools for PFE, improved communication, shared care planning, digital health tools. The organization also provides tips on how best to engage patients and families for virtual visits and fostering trust.

Rural/CAH Corner

[COVID-19 Vaccination Field Guide Addendum: Rural Considerations for Vaccine Confidence and Uptake Strategies](#)

The CDC provides rural considerations and examples to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence and uptake.

[Rural Hunger and Access to Healthy Food \(Updated\)](#)

The Rural Health Information Hub list of resources has been updated to include how to address hunger and food access issues in rural communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the News

[Trends in Racial, Ethnic, Sex, and Rural-Urban Inequities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage: 2009-2018](#)

CMS Office of Minority Health published a report highlighting historical trends in inequities in the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. The report provides data on 4 patient experience measures and 7 clinical care measures. The report notes improvements in scores of rural residents in the clinical care measures with one exception – engagement of alcohol or other drug treatment. There were also improvements in clinical care measures for Black and Hispanic beneficiaries.

[Parents with Low Incomes Faced Greater Health Challenges and Problems Accessing and Affording Needed Health Care](#)

A report by the Urban Institute shows income-based health disparities, with more than half of low-income parents delaying or forgoing care. They also reported worse overall health with over half indicating they had one or more chronic conditions, and 40 percent indicating they had a mental or behavioral health condition.

[The Quintuple Aim for Health Care Improvement](#)

This JAMA viewpoint piece by three physician leaders opines that healthcare needs to expand the “quadruple aim” to include a fifth focus on advancing health equity. They argue that “quality improvement without equity is a hollow victory.” The addition of the fifth aim should encourage health care leaders to identify disparities and implement interventions to reduce them, invest in equity measurement, and incentivize the achievement of equity.

[Improving Care of LGBTQ People of Color: Lessons from the Voices of Patients](#)

This article provides examples from patients about challenges faced as a LGBTQ person of color when receiving care. It describes lessons learned from University of Chicago’s study on how to improve shared decision making between clinicians and LGBTQ people of color. It includes examples of steps that healthcare organizations can take for improving care for this patient population.



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

Upcoming Events

[Improving Diabetes Health Outcomes Through the Lens of Cultural Literacy](#)

National Center for Farmworker Health

Date: February 2

Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST

[Understanding and Addressing Racial Disparities in Cancer Outcomes, Care, and Treatment](#)

Kaiser Family Foundation

Date: February 3

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

[Using System and Provider Culture Change to Address the Impact of Racism and Bias on Patient Outcomes](#)

Center for Healthcare Strategies

Date: February 10

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST