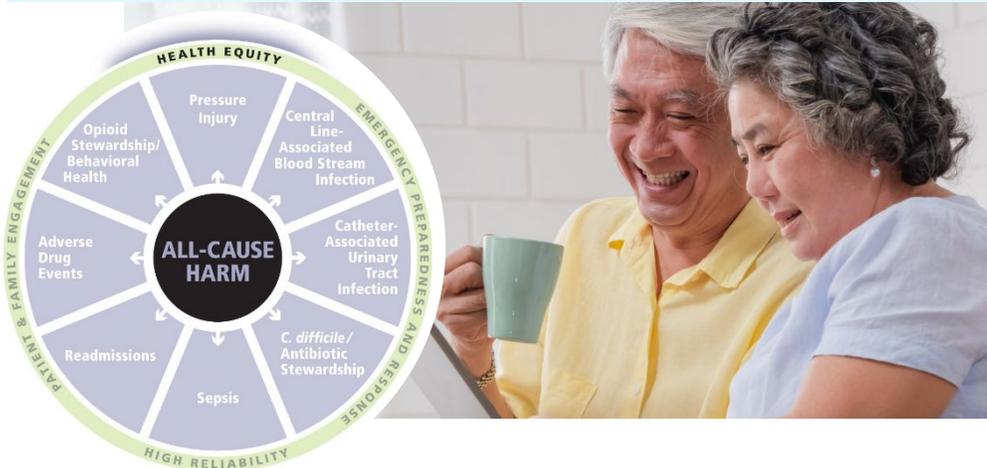


HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

May 2023



May: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mental Health Month, and National Women’s Health Week (May 8-14)

Mental Health America offers [resources](#) related to mental health and are calling individuals to *look around, look within* and the National Alliance on Mental Illness has a [toolkit](#).

OMH highlights specific [health concerns](#) for AA and NHPI individuals.

HHS’s Office on Women’s Health will provide [resources](#) for National Women’s Health Week.

[CMS Proposes Policies to Improve Patient Safety and Promote Health Equity](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed rule to advance health equity and support underserved communities. The rule would also propose quality measures focused on equity and adjust the value-based purchasing program for hospitals that care for higher proportions of dually eligible patients.

The proposed rule would also recognize homelessness as an indicator of utilization in the inpatient setting. By doing so, it creates incentives for those hospitals that provide care to underserved populations and report that information via claims data.

[ONC Releases a Social Determinants of Health Clinical Decision Support Feasibility Brief](#)

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) released a brief on how clinical decision support (CDS) could help advance health equity by including social determinants of health (SDOH) factors. The ONC has developed interoperability standards that can allow for consistently translating clinical guidelines into electronic CDS.

It highlights the benefits of using standardized CDS which can provide a common language to interact with a variety of electronic health record (EHR) systems. The CDS would require careful interpretation of clinical guidelines since translation from narrative to the electronic format can create instances where the electronic interventions no longer align with the clinical guidelines. Once it is developed appropriately, there are numerous options to use it across health care settings which can help support broader adoption.

The brief provides several examples of guidelines with SDOH components that can be used alongside CDS.

Rural/CAH Corner

[Rethinking How CMS Approaches Health Equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)

This report discusses key drivers of health inequities in Indian Country and focuses on unique Tribal context and recommendations on advancing health equity in those communities.

[Mental Health Matters: Targeting Underserved Rural, Racial and Ethnic Communities](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor’s State Exchange on Employment & Disability has created a dialogue hub to gather ideas on policies to address mental health disparities in rural, racial, and ethnic communities.

In the News

[Key Data on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity](#)

New analysis from KFF which analyzed a range of health datasets indicates health disparities are persistent, and social determinants of health play a key role. Black, Hispanic, and AIAN people fared worse on multiple measure of health such as receiving mental health services,

[How ‘Weathering’ Contributes to Racial Health Disparities](#)

This New York Times article describes the concept of “weathering” – the idea that stress as a result of racism leads to poorer health outcomes for marginalized communities. The author who coined the term describes how the pandemic is an example of weathering, and how it also provided an opportunity to make structural improvements and can continue to do so.

[Immigration, Birth Status Predicts Limited Patient Health Literacy](#)

This article describes recent research on limited patient health literacy which is common among racial and ethnic minorities who are also immigrants. It quotes HHS data that indicates only 12 percent of U.S. adults have proficient health literacy, and underscores the need to target health literacy improvements for the immigrant racial-ethnic minorities.

[Fresh Produce Is an Increasingly Popular Prescription for Chronically Ill Patients](#)

A program in Montana on the Blackfeet Reservation prescribes vouchers for produce because of food insecurity or lack of access to healthy foods. These programs have the potential to improve chronic diseases and address social needs.

[How Northwell Health Created a Staff Structure for Health Equity, DEI](#)

This article describes how Northwell Health created a strategy on health equity that focuses on seven pillars: leadership commitment, education and development, language access, community partnerships, workforce, supplier diversity, and gender disparities & women’s health. One of the successes has been staff engagement via Business Employee Resource Groups that focus on a variety of staff issues.



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

Upcoming Events

[Health Equity and SDOH Learning Collaborative: A Population Health, Team-Based Care and Community-Based Approach: Five-Part Virtual Series](#)

Missouri Hospital Association

Date: May 3

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

[Two Innovative Models to Advance Health & Mental Health Equity](#)

University of California

Date: May 10

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 AM ET

[Disaggregating AANHPI Data to Achieve Health Equity & Justice \(Part 2: Asian American\)](#)

University of Pittsburgh

Date: May 12

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET