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Quality Innovation Network -
Quality Improvement Organizations
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
iQUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP



Health Equity Updates



The Latest in Health Equity News, Events, and Resources

November 2021

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HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES



The latest health equity news, events and resources to support the IPRO QIN-QIO efforts to eliminate health care disparities for Medicare beneficiaries.

Overdiagnosis of Schizophrenia for Residents in Nursing Homes

According to the Lown Institute, the proportion of nursing home residents diagnosed with schizophrenia increased by 70% since 2012, following the implementation of the [CMS National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes](#). The goal of the CMS initiative is to reduce the use of antipsychotic medications for residents with dementia in nursing homes. However, CMS does not require nursing homes to report use of antipsychotic drugs for schizophrenia, Huntington's Disease or Tourette's Syndrome. Although the reported rate of antipsychotic drug use has declined since 2012, a [New York Times investigation](#) found that false schizophrenia diagnoses allow nursing homes to justify the use of the antipsychotics and obscure the true rate of use. The Times investigation also found that one in nine residents has a schizophrenia diagnosis, compared to about one in 150 diagnoses in the general population.

A recently published [study](#) by Brown University found that schizophrenia diagnoses were highest among residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia, and that Black residents had higher rates of schizophrenia diagnoses compared to their non-Black counterparts prior to the implementation of the CMS initiative. After implementation, Black residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia had a significant increase of 1.7% in schizophrenia diagnoses compared to non-Black residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia, who had a decrease of 1.7%. The disparities in schizophrenia diagnoses may be due to staffing shortages and lower quality of care in nursing homes serving people of color. To learn more, read the article published by the Lown Institute [HERE](#).

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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 7 studies in 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.

Did You Know?

Housing is an established social determinant of health

Tenant-based housing voucher programs—

- Help households with low incomes gain access to safe, quality housing
- Advance health equity and improve health outcomes for households with young children
- Have been shown to improve education, employment, and income later in life for children aged 12 and younger

View the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommendation: <https://go.usa.gov/x69B5>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support

CMS Innovation Center (CMMI) Launches Bold New Strategy to Achieve Equitable Outcomes

The CMS Innovation Center’s vision for the next decade is a health system that achieves equitable outcomes through high quality, affordable, person-centered care. A [white paper](#) titled, “Driving Health System Transformation – A Strategy for the CMS Innovation Center’s Second Decade” outlines the five strategic objectives that will drive the transformation. CMS hosted a webinar on October 20th to discuss the white paper. Materials from the webinar are available online:

- [Webinar Slides](#)
- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [Webinar Transcript](#)
- [Strategic Direction FAQs](#)

HHS COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Final Recommendations

The HHS COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force has convened every month since February as part of a Federal government effort to identify and eliminate COVID-19 health and social disparities that have disproportionately affected underserved and minority populations. Last month, the Task Force discussed and voted favorably on five suggested actions for the Biden-Harris administration to prioritize, suggested outcomes and recommendations to achieve the outcomes.

COVID-19 Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the U.S.

According to an article published in *Pediatrics*, more than 140,000 children in the U.S. have experienced orphanhood due to COVID-19-associated death of a parent or grandparent caregiver between April 1, 2020 and June 20, 2021. Children from racial and ethnic minority groups experienced the greatest risk of orphanhood, especially in southern border states for Hispanic children, southeastern states for Black children, and in states with tribal areas for American Indian/Alaska Native children. Caregiver death increases risks for short-term trauma and life-long adverse consequences for children.

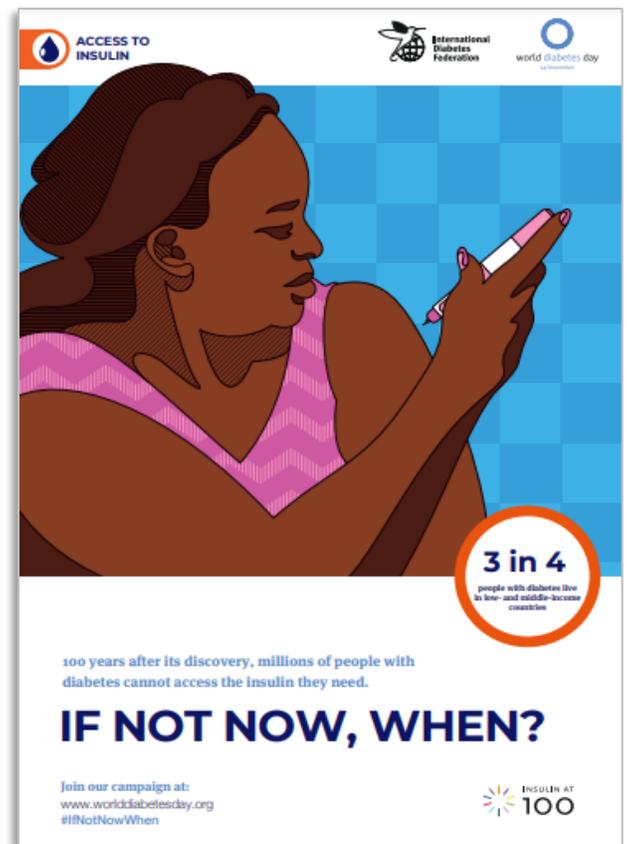
November is National Diabetes Month



November is National Diabetes Month, a time when communities across the country team up to bring attention to diabetes. This year's focus is on prediabetes and preventing diabetes.

Click on the images for more information.

World Diabetes Day November 14th



World Diabetes Day is a global occasion on which people with diabetes, diabetes advocates, health professionals, media, government organizations and the general public unite to raise awareness of diabetes. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2021-23 is **Access to diabetes care**.

Trending Health Equity Resources

AMA Center for Health Equity

[Advancing Health Equity: A Guide to Language, Narrative and Concepts](#)

Designed for physicians and other health care professionals, this guide provides guidance and promotes a deeper understanding of equity-focused, first-person language and why it matters. It is not intended to be a definitive and all-encompassing instruction manual but rather to give a fresh perspective about language we commonly use, and to recognize the harmful effects of dominant narratives in medicine.

Grant Makers in Health & National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

[Federal Action is Needed to Improve Race and Ethnicity Data in Health Programs](#)

This paper presents findings and recommendations based on an environmental scan of selected health programs and over 20 interviews with key informants representing federal, state, and local health agencies; commercial insurance plans; public and private health systems; and health information technology experts. Examination of federal and state health care and public health programs reveals an absence of complete, standardized, self-identified race and ethnicity data sufficient to monitor equity. The paper highlights actions the federal government can take now to improve race and ethnicity data—and, in so doing, advance health equity.

Kaiser Health News & The John A. Hartford Foundation

[Confronting Ageism in Health Care: A Conversation with Patients, Caregivers and Clinicians](#)

Kaiser Health News (KHN) recently published an article about ageism in healthcare and how it is reflected in care strategies that ignore a patient's values and ideas about what constitutes a productive life. KHN also hosted a companion webinar with a frank, practical and empowering conversation about this pervasive, systemic problem of bias, discrimination and stereotyping based on age.

- [Archived Recording](#)

National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)

[Impact of Climate Change on Health](#)

Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, the food supply and reliable shelter. This infographic highlights the impact of climate change on health, especially for low-income populations, occupation groups and people in specific geographic locations.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) & Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

[QuestionBuilder en Español](#)

HHS released a Spanish-language update to the [QuestionBuilder](#) app, intended to help patients prepare for their in-person or telehealth appointments. *QuestionBuilder en Español* aims to improve health care access and equity for Hispanics, who have among the highest uninsured rates of any racial and ethnic group in the U.S.

Monthly Observances

November, 2021

[Native American Heritage Month](#)

[American Diabetes Month](#)

[National Diabetes Month](#)

[National Hospice Palliative Care Month](#)

[National Family Caregivers Month](#)

[National Home Health Care Month](#)

[World Pneumonia Day](#) (November 12)

[World Diabetes Day](#) (November 14)

[Great American Smoke-out](#) (November 19)

[World Antimicrobial Awareness Week](#) (November 18-24)

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Upcoming Events

Diabetes Continuum of Care: Improving Diabetes Care and Health Equity in a Changing Healthcare Landscape

National Center for Equitable Care for Elders

Dates: November 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Women's Health Series: Diabetes

Asian Women for Health

Date: November 6, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Geriatric Suicide Prevention: Suicide Safer Care Principles for Primary Care Providers and Their Teams

Association of Clinicians for the Underserved

Dates: November 9, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

12th Annual International Conference on Stigma

Howard University Stigma Project

Dates: November 15 – 19, 2021

[MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION](#)

Structural Level Determinants of Rural Health Disparities

National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Dates: November 18, 2021

Time: 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)