

HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

March 2023



Race Free Kidney Equation Expected To Change Status of CKD Diagnoses for Millions in U.S.

A [study](#) recently published in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology outlines evidence to support a race free creatinine equation for calculating eGFR will have a significant effect on recommended clinical care. A Task Force convened by The National Kidney Foundation and American Society of Nephrology (NKF-ASN) examined data for 44,360 patients from the CDC National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) to determine the expected changes to care based on the new equation. They found that “nationwide implementation of the new creatinine-based eGFR equation may affect recommended care for hundreds of thousands of Black adults and millions of non-Black adults, including new CKD diagnoses and reversals, CKD stage reclassifications, and changes in kidney donation eligibility, nephrologist referral, and medication dosing.”

The NKF-ASN Task Force on Reassessing the Inclusion of Race in Diagnosing Kidney Disease made the recommendation for the race-free creatinine-based equation for eGFR in September, 2021, with a [final report](#) published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases in February 2022. It was unclear how this recommendation would impact care until the release of this current study examining NHANES data.

Decision Aid Helps Older Adults with CKD

A [study](#) in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that easy access to reliable education outside the clinician office helps improve understanding of treatment options and decision-making for older adults with advanced stage CKD. Researchers examined DART (Decision Aid for Renal Therapy), an interactive web-based decision tool, in a randomized controlled trial. Participants randomly assigned to DART versus usual care improved decision quality and understanding of treatment options.

This Month

National Kidney Month

According to a CMS Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) resource, [Chronic Kidney Disease Disparities: Educational Guide for Primary Care](#), racial and ethnic minorities and those with lower socioeconomic status are less likely to receive recommended care for CKD risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol, and are more likely to progress from CKD to end-stage renal disease. These vulnerable patients are also less likely to be receiving care from a nephrologist before starting dialysis. Some factors that contribute to these disparities include lower health literacy about CKD, discomfort with the clinical complexity of the condition, and communication challenges with their providers.

IPRO is dedicated to addressing these disparities with the [CKD Awareness & Prevention Program](#), supporting providers and patients to increase knowledge about CKD and health behaviors that can impact progression of the condition. IPRO has released an educational video series to increase patient health literacy and help patients make informed choices about preventing and managing chronic kidney disease (CKD). Four new videos are on the way soon!

In the News

[Suicide Rates on the Rise, Especially for Minorities](#)

A study released by the CDC in February shows that suicide rates increased in 2021 after two consecutive years of decline. For several decades, suicide rates for White individuals have been higher compared to Black and Hispanic individuals. The study reveals that suicide among minorities is increasing, especially among younger minority individuals. Not surprisingly, the communities most effected by the COVID pandemic are where rates are increasing. Researchers believe that cumulative stress from losing loved ones without the opportunity to say good-bye, participate in burial traditions, and grieve have contributed to distress. Overall, suicide rates increased 5% among adults age 25 to 44. Native American and Alaska Native adults had the highest increase at 26%. Researchers surmise that a weak mental health response infrastructure in the U.S. compounded the crisis.

[National Colorectal Cancer Month](#)

Colorectal Cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. when combining men and women. Black individuals bear a disproportionate burden, with an incidence that is twenty percent higher than in White individuals. The National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable estimates that one in three adults age 50-75 in the U.S. are not getting screened for CRC. It is estimated that more than 52,000 individuals will die from CRC in 2023. This website offers tips for encouraging screening, data and trends, and a CRC resource center.

[Positive Impact of Telehealth for Beneficiaries with Development Disabilities](#)

Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) face significant barriers to adequate health care. Approximately eight percent of dually eligible beneficiaries have an intellectual/developmental disability. These beneficiaries tend to have poorer health, more unmet healthcare needs, and are more likely to experience sexual abuse. The Resources for Integrated Care released a brief on the benefits of telehealth for this population. The brief provides some background on telehealth, specific benefits to individuals with I/DD and how the technology expands access to care.

[AHRQ Announces Funding to Accelerate Health Equity](#)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has announced a funding opportunity to accelerate health equity within healthcare delivery systems using dissemination and implementation (D&I) science. The objective of the funding opportunity is to build new evidence regarding the implementation and effectiveness of equity-focused evidence-based interventions to address disparities and advance equitable care. Applications are being accepted through April 23, 2023. A second funding opportunity supports development of scalable knowledge on how to increase the uptake of evidence-based interventions to treat substance use disorders for person-centered care delivery in primary care. Applications are being accepted through April 16, 2023.



Visit the IPRO Resource Library: <https://qi-library.ipro.org/>

Upcoming Events

[National CLAS Standards](#) (Session 6 of 6)

IPRO

Date: March 15, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 12:30 PM ET

[Health Equity Organizational Assessment Affinity Group](#)

(Session 4 of 6)

IPRO

Date: March 9, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM ET

[Advancing Equity Through Oral Health Grantmaking](#)

CareQuest Institute

Date: March 16, 2023

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET