

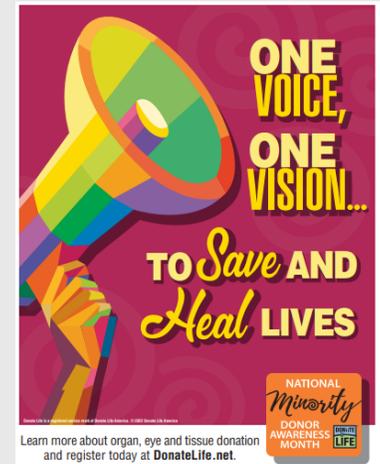
HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

August 2022



This Month

National Minority Donor Awareness Month



CMS Innovation Center Addresses Implicit Bias

In October 2021, the CMS Innovation Center announced a new vision: “Achieve equitable outcomes through high quality, affordable, person-centered care.” The agency released a [strategy](#) whitepaper outlining five key objectives to realize this vision and guide its priorities, one of which is to advance health equity. Since its launch in 2010, the Innovation Center has tested over 50 models. A review of this decade of work showed that beneficiaries are not equally represented in many of the models, especially Medicaid beneficiaries and those served by safety-net providers. As a result of this review, one of the key lessons learned is that the agency must ensure that health equity is embedded in every model.

In a [blog post](#) on Health Affairs, authors from the Innovation Center outlined the results of a review of three of its payment and service delivery models to determine if implicit bias is present and if that bias has led to unintentional disparities for certain patient populations. The three models reviewed were:

- [Kidney Care Choices Model](#)
- [Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model](#)
- [Million Hearts® Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Model](#)

The review found that “use of certain risk-assessment and screening tools, provider tools, and payment design and risk-adjustment algorithms has led to the exclusion of some beneficiaries from these three models. These findings are troubling not only because of the limited access to the benefits of Innovation Center models but also because diverse model participation is critical for robust evaluation and confidence in generalizing results to all of the populations served through CMS programs.” The results of this review will also inform ways to better assess and address implicit bias in existing and future models.

National Minority Donor Awareness Month is observed each year in August to bring awareness to organ and tissue donation to save and improve the quality of life of diverse communities. More than 100K [people are waiting](#) for organ transplants, 60% of which are from diverse communities. Some minority groups face disparities in organ donation and transplants. In this [HHS](#) example, Black Americans are four times more likely, and Latinos are 1.3 times more likely to have kidney failure compared to their White counterparts; however, Black and Latino patients on dialysis are less likely to be placed on the transplant waitlist and/or receive a transplant.

In the News

[Rural Americans' Cancer Risks and Outcomes](#)

According to a recently published guide by the HRSA Rural Health Information Hub, rural residents face unique challenges in cancer exposure, diagnosis, and treatment. Although incidence rates of cancer are similar between rural and urban populations, rural residents experience higher cancer mortality. Social determinants of health and modifiable behaviors are contributing factors. The Guide includes detailed information, charts, and approaches to address these disparities.

[Health Systems & Public Health Teamed Up to Advance Health Equity in NYC](#)

This Commonwealth Fund blog post describes how a successful collaboration between the health care system and public health in New York City advanced health equity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors, both from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, discuss a newly created role within the department to build and sustain this collaboration, which included interviewing 15 hospitals to learn about barriers to prioritizing health equity.

[CDC Reports: Widening Disparities in Overdose Deaths](#)

This CDC Vital Signs Report shows there was a 30% increase in overdose deaths in the U.S. from 2019 to 2020, with an increase of 44% among Black persons and 39% among American Indian or Alaska Native persons. Overdose rates increased in counties where income inequality increased, especially among Black individuals.

[Food Insecurity Impact on Working-Age Adults with Diabetes](#)

According to research recently published in Health Affairs, food insecurity is associated with an increase in adults with diabetes reporting any health-related missed workdays, more than twice the rate of health related missed work days and increased odds of an overnight hospital stay within the past 12 months. These findings are in addition to the known association of food insecurity and poor health outcomes, highlighting the broad impact of this social risk factor on clinical and non-clinical outcomes.

[HHS National CLAS Standards](#)

The National CLAS Standards are a set of 15 steps that provide a blueprint for health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS). CLAS are services that are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices, and needs of diverse patients. Implementing CLAS standards can help improve the quality of services provided to all individuals, which will ultimately help reduce health disparities and achieve health equity.

In the coming months, IPRO will be offering an educational series, technical assistance and office hours to hospitals, providers and nursing homes to encourage implementation of the National CLAS Standards. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming IPRO newsletters and on our [website](#).



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

Upcoming Events

[Health Equity Organizational Assessment \(HEOA\) Knowledge Builder Series](#)

IPRO

Dates: Every Thursday
June 16th – August 4th

Time: 12:00 – 12:30 PM ET

[Should I Join a Clinical Trial?](#)

Salud America!

Date: August 17, 2022

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 PM ET

[Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Measures in National Center for Health Statistics Data Systems](#)

CDC National Center for Health Statistics

Date: August 2, 2022

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET