Health Equity

HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

June 2024

AHRQ Guide for Digital Health Equity

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released A Practical Guide for Implementing the Digital Healthcare Equity Framework, with a goal to guide users in intentionally considering equity in healthcare solutions that involve digital technologies, thereby benefitting all patient populations. AHRQ suggests that the guide is beneficial for implementing an "evidence- and consensus-based framework that improves patient outcomes and advances healthcare equity." Read about the six key principles that guided development of the framework.

Best of CLAS

A tip for implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate services

HHS National CLAS Standards – Standard 12

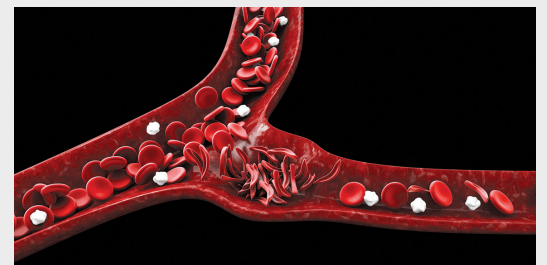*Conduct Assessments of Community Health Assets and Needs*

Conduct regular assessments of community health assets and needs and use the results to plan and implement services that respond to the cultural and linguistic diversity of populations in the service area. This standard encourages use of community health needs assessments to gain a better understanding of an organization's community and learn how best to serve it. This includes engaging community partners that can help define and implement health equity strategies and goals.

This Month

Men's Health Month 2024: Take Action

June is Men's Health Month, a time to raise awareness of the health issues faced by men and to encourage them to be proactive in taking charge of their health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, men die six years earlier than their female counterparts and are at increased risk for serious illness such as heart disease and lung cancer. Visit the HHS Office of Minority Health website for more information and a toolkit to help promote this observance.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day June 19

Hope Through Progress: Advancing Care Globally

June 19 is designated as a day to bring international attention to sickle cell disease and the challenges faced by those living with the disease—the majority of whom are Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latino. Learn more by visiting the Sickle Cell Disease Association website and read about the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Sickle Cell Action Plan to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities for individuals with sickle cell disease.

In the News

KFF Publishes Health Policy 101

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) released "Health Policy 101," a comprehensive guide that covers the basic aspects of health policy in the U.S. as well as programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, employer-sponsored insurance, healthcare costs, and more. Several chapters cover equity-related topics including the uninsured population; women's health; and race, inequality and health. KFF plans to build on the guide over time, adding new chapters and updating existing chapters at least annually.

HHS Office of Minority Health Highlights Health Equity Accomplishments

The Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health released a fact sheet that outlines the agency's significant accomplishments in advancing health equity. "Advancing Health Equity Across HHS" details initiatives under seven topic areas including lowering healthcare costs, expanding health care coverage, and improving health outcomes. There are links to health equity fact sheets for each of the 16 divisions within HHS including the CDC, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), CMS, and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

New Hospital / Skilled Nursing Facility Partnership Benefits Underserved Communities

The University of Rochester Medical Center and St. John's Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) announced a strategic collaboration that aims to address "key challenges" such as a shortage of long-term care beds. Due to challenges with staffing and Medicaid reimbursement rates, St. John's has 300 of its 455 licensed beds available. The medical center has a backlog due to limited availability of skilled care beds. The organizations signed an agreement whereby the hospital supplements the Medicaid reimbursement for some patients admitted to St. John's. The new revenue stream is already relieving some of St. John's staffing challenges, thereby improving access to care.

Potentially Avoidable Hospitalizations for Marginalized Nursing Home Residents

A cross-sectional study published in JAMA examined the potentially avoidable hospitalization incidence rate for more than 2 million marginalized nursing home residents with and without severe cognitive impairment. The researchers found that Black or African American and Hispanic nursing home residents with severe cognitive impairment had the highest incidence of potentially avoidable hospitalizations, suggesting a need for interventions focused on marginalized populations with severe cognitive impairment nearing end-of-life.

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

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

Upcoming Events

Leaders Forum 2024 Session
IPRO
June 25, 2024
2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Protecting Mothers: Key Takeaways From the 2024 Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Prevention Report
American Hospital Association
June 26, 2024
12:00 – 1:00 PM ET

Building Trust in Healthcare Among Historically Marginalized Pregnant Women
National Academies
June 28, 2024
12:00 – 1:00 PM ET