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



HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

September/October 2024



CMS OMH Report: Disparities in Healthcare for Medicare Advantage Enrollees

Research funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) and conducted by RAND Health has resulted in reports on disparities in healthcare provided to Medicare Advantage enrollees. Stratified by race and ethnicity, geography, and gender, the reports offer insight into the nature and extent of the healthcare disparities. The latest report — [Disparities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage Associated with Dual Eligibility or Eligibility for a Low-Income Subsidy and Disability](#) — compares the quality of clinical care, nationwide, for four groups of Medicare Advantage enrollees.

Best of CLAS

A tip for implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate services

HHS National CLAS Standards – [Standard 14](#)

Create Conflict and Grievance Resolution Processes

Culturally and linguistically appropriate conflict and grievance resolution processes address the actual and perceived discrimination and unfair treatment of diverse populations. “Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex, age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other characteristics impede the provision of quality care and services, making culturally and linguistically competent conflict prevention and resolution a vital part of advancing health equity.”



September

Healthy Aging Month 2024 – Shaping the Future of Aging

The [National Institute on Aging website](#) has events planned throughout the month of September and offers related resources.

National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month

The [CMS Office of Minority Health](#) aims to increase awareness of sickle cell disease disparities with resources to help advance health equity.

Hunger Action® Month

[Feeding America](#) is leading a nationwide effort to raise awareness and inspire action to address hunger in America.

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15) –

With Latinos, Everything is Possible

The Hispanic Star has made available a bilingual [toolkit](#) with messaging, datasets, and communications materials designed to engage Latinos.

October

Health Literacy Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) website offers information and tools to [advance health literacy](#).

National Residents’ Rights Month – The Power of My Voice

The [National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center](#) provides resources on the rights of long-term care nursing home residents including fact sheets in several languages, and information on this year’s theme, “The Power of My Voice.”

In the News

[Now Available: Updated CMS OMH Disparities Impact Statement](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) OMH released an updated version of its Disparities Impact Statement, a tool that health care organizations can use to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of populations that experience disparities. CMS revised the resource to make its purpose clearer and to offer more examples of potential use. CMS OMH offers a [Health Equity Technical Assistance program](#) to assist those looking for assistance with the Disparities Impact Statement, health equity data collection and analysis, embedding health equity, and ways to improve health equity efforts. Contact HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov for more information.

[HHS Releases Updated Language Access Plan](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) 2024-2026 Language Access Plan seeks to establish an infrastructure for continued integration of language access in OMH activities. The plan outlines five key activities: 1) increasing awareness of the National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services standards, 2) increasing use of interpretation and translation services, 3) improving language accessibility to OMH resources, 4) testing methods to increase awareness of language access services for persons with limited English proficiency, and 5) continuing OMH engagement in HHS language access efforts.

[Building Collaborative Contracts with Health Care](#)

The Aging and Disability Business Institute is highlighting successful strategic partnerships among community-based organizations and health care organizations. These collaborations enhance care for older adults and individuals with disabilities by identifying and addressing unmet social needs. The Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) collaborates with Molina Healthcare of Ohio and Aetna Better Health to implement the Social Drivers of Health Accelerator Program (SDOHAP). This program promotes screening with an easy-to-use social drivers of health (SDOH) screening tool designed by the COAAA. The tool is currently being validated by an external research firm. The model uses Community Health Workers, Licensed Social Workers, and Registered Nurses to assign Z codes to track SDOH and provide education, referrals, and connections to address unmet social needs.

For more health equity news:

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



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

Upcoming Events

[IPRO LINKS Forum: Fall Session #1](#)

IPRO

October 17, 2024

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

[Health Equity in Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

October 23, 2024

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM ET

[Introduction to the IPRO Health Equity Action Framework](#)

IPRO

October 31, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET