

Moving from Race-Based Clinical Equations to Race-Conscious Approaches through Health Literacy and Health Education

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Problem Statement

With the systemic issues linked to race-based clinical equations being utilized as clinical decision tools, this project's goal was to assess how to enhance health literacy and health education to better inform patients about the harms of race-based clinical equations. The overarching purpose is to allow for greater patient health education that can shift from race-based approaches to race-conscious care for all patients.

Introduction

Discriminatory health care systems and policies play an outsized role in creating an uneven playing field for access to quality health care in The United States. Throughout the United States, race-based medicine has been a significant barrier to improving health equity and creating equitable healthcare systems for all populations. Race-based medicine, rooted in practices pre-dating the 19th century, and metrics for clinical decision making have been rooted in the development of clinical equations.

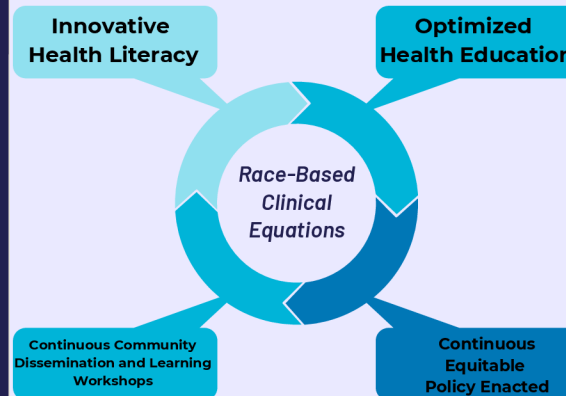
For centuries, algorithms and mathematical models have incorporated race in a biased way and clinical algorithms, decision making tools, and electronic health/medical records (EHR and EMR systems) have created inequitable systems for patients as it relates to medical history, health outcomes, medical results, and biased clinical recommendations. Unfortunately, some examples of race-based equations such as the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), Vaginal-Birth After Cesarean Section (VBAC), and Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs) have been utilized and still are widely used today and these equations do not benefit all patients in an equal manner

Methods

- The following methodology was utilized to learn more about the intersection of health literacy and health education within the framework of race-based clinical equations.
- Systematic Review methodology allowed for enriched perspectives and findings related to identifying the intersection of health literacy/health education for improving awareness of the harms of race-based clinical equations.
- Dissemination and Implementation Science will be crucial to this initiative to ensure sustainable health literacy and optimized patient health education to shift from race-based ideology to race-conscious frameworks.



Results



Findings

Findings from work:

- Significant gap in patient understanding of race-based clinical equations used in decision making
- Urgent need for optimized patient health literacy and community health education programs to promote awareness of race-based clinical equations
- Increased awareness of the harms of race-based medicine and need to promote race-conscious strategies to improve the significant health inequities related to systemic injustices.

Next Steps

- Continue patient outreach to assess impacts of race-based clinical equations
- Outreach to Providers and Researchers to assess strategies to shift from race-based to race-conscious approaches
- Create sustainable and innovative health literacy initiatives to improve patient health education related to harms of race-based equations

Contact Info!

Thank You!

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