The Experience of African Americans with Serious Illness: Shortcoming and Opportunities

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The Elephant in the Living Room: Why is this important?

What elephant?

Tomassi
Healthcare in America: Not the Same For Everyone

“Disparities in healthcare for racial and ethnic minorities are real and are associated with worse health outcomes in many cases, which is unacceptable.”

Alan Nelson, former AMA President.
Healthcare in America: Not the Same For Everyone

African Americans less Likely to receive:
cancer screening and treatment
cardiac procedures (CABG, PCI, CEA)
dialysis
transplants
hip and knee replacements

Real Consequences:
More likely to die
It’s about Equity!

Institute of Medicine —
*Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*
It’s about Equity!

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*Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*
Serious Illness Care for African Americans

- Unmet Needs
- Pain Management
- Communication
- Satisfaction
What are the barriers?

Knowledge
Preferences
Spiritual Beliefs
Mistrust
Changing the Model: Let’s Have It All
BEST PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Raise Awareness

African-American Outreach Guide

Key Topics on End-of-Life Care for African Americans

Last Miles of the Way Home

Improve Patient/Family and Provider Communication
Raising Awareness Where We Live, Work, and Worship

Harlem’s Project Hope
Raising Awareness Where We Live, Work, and Worship

Creating An Unbroken Circle of Care in Your Congregation teaches and supports faith-based congregations.
Partnerships: A Little Help from Our Friends

Circles of Care
Partnerships: It Takes a Village

Balm in Gilead

Harlem Palliative Care Network
A Tale of Two Different Experiences with Serious Illness
Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane.
— Martin Luther King