

Closing Disability Disparities: The First Step

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Michael Hickson
Passed away June 11th, 2020

1 in 4
Live with a
Disability



Significant Health and Healthcare Disparities



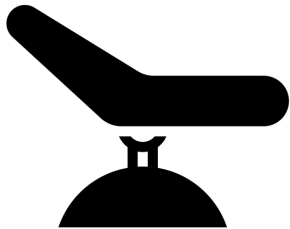
2.7x



3x



6x



54% v. 83%



1 in 3



3x

Disability Equity Research Priorities

1. Improving disability data
2. Improving disability data
3. Improving disability data

Disability status is rarely collected or documented

EHR

Patients' disability status rarely collected



Patient experience surveys

Seldom captures disability



Big Data (e.g., Claims data)

~70% miss disability diagnosis

ICD-10
XXX.XX

We can't
improve
what we
can't
measure

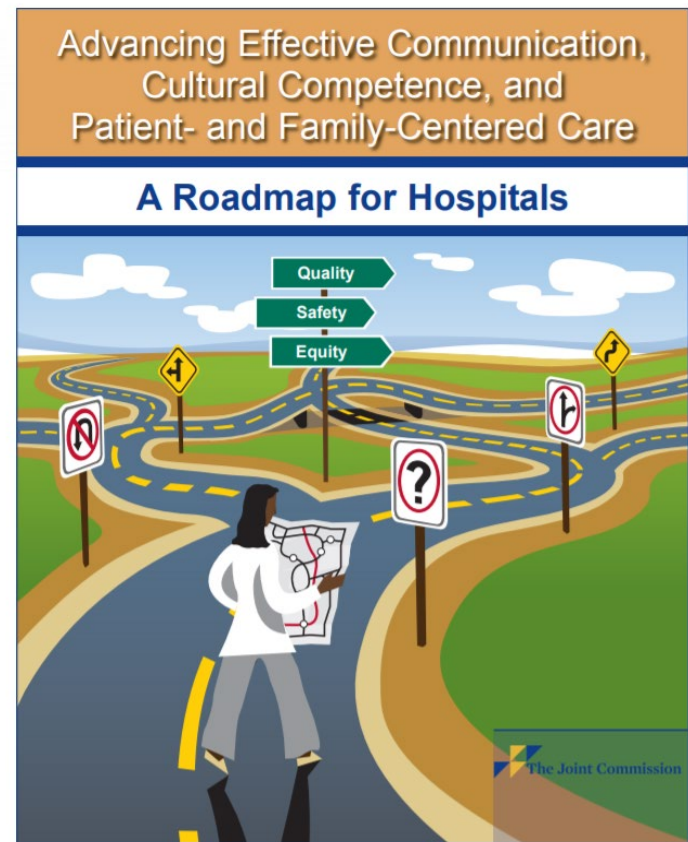
Data needs:

Quality of health and
healthcare

Effects of
interventions

Provision of disability
accommodations

Limited calls for collection of disability status



SEC. 4302. UNDERSTANDING HEALTH DISPARITIES: DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.

“(A) data on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status for applicants, recipients, or participants;

HHS Recommended Questions



1. Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?
2. Are you blind or do you have difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
3. Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
4. Do you have difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
5. Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
6. Do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?
7. *Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating (for example, understanding or being understood)?*

88% of ALL
patients
believe collection
of disability
status is
important

1,894 patients
asked disability
questions during
registration

ZERO
complaints

Opportunities



We know which
questions to ask



Patients are okay disclosing
disability status



We can integrate collection
with other demographic
characteristics

Recommended Action Steps

#1

Recognize persons with disability as a disparity population

#2

Support initiatives and infrastructure to document disability status at the point of care

#3

Ensure disability demographics and accessibility quality measures are included in surveys

#4

Invest in developing methods to identify persons with disability in claims data

“Everyone is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity.”

- President Biden, referring to people with disabilities, such as himself



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