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Workgroup updates

Thank you for participating in EQIC's monthly affinity [workgroup meetings](#). Registered members of each group receive email summaries of meeting notes and workgroup priorities, and we will share overall summaries via *EQIC News* with the entire collaborative.

This issue covers the most recent workgroup meetings for health equity, falls, readmissions and patient and family engagement. Summaries for the sepsis, pressure injuries, infections and adverse drug events/opioid prescribing workgroups are shared in alternating issues.

Health equity

At the June 20 meeting, the workgroup discussed the power of qualitative data and storytelling. Teams shared specific actions implemented since last month, including conducting the EQIC health equity gap analysis to assess their current state and examining data collection processes and education/training needs for leadership and staff.

The workgroup identified the following focus areas for improvement:

- race, ethnicity and language; social determinants of health; and sexual orientation and gender identity data collection; and
- stratification and health literacy/organizational assessments.

Shared examples of qualitative data collection include the use of organizational safety briefs and patient focus groups to gather and share stories. Other approaches include using patient experience data and asking patients "What matters to you?" The next meeting will focus on data collection and use.

Falls

The workgroup participated in a whiteboard root cause analysis exercise during its June 22 meeting, identifying reasons why patients fall in hospitals. The comprehensive list was narrowed down to a “toileting” subcategory to further explore reasons why patients fall when they need to use the bathroom and solutions to implement for preventing these types of falls. The group identified the most “actionable” solutions to implement within the next month.

Many participants identified a toileting schedule as appropriate for a Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle. The group also discussed how to create a “plan of prevention” by customizing interventions for patients based on their screening and assessment, using population-based interventions (the ABCs) and implementing universal precautions for all patients.

Readmissions

The June 27 workgroup meeting continued discussions focused on the Care Partner Program. Participants shared progress achieved since the last meeting in steps 1 and 2 of the program implementation (Commit and Identify) and shared ways they are training within their facilities. Notably, members discussed the importance of a care partner to staff and providers and shared EQIC’s video, [Importance of a Care Partner](#). Workgroup members also adopted several [EQIC Care Partner program resources](#). The next workgroup meeting will include a roundtable sharing of program implementation challenges and successes.

Patient and family engagement

The June 29 workgroup meeting featured a presentation by BronxCare Health System on its PFE journey of engaging patients during the admission and discharge processes and unit-based meetings. The workgroup then discussed a roadmap and a step-by-step action plan for implementing PFE measures 1 and 2 — using a pre-planned admission and discharge checklist. Hospital members shared their barriers and successes in engaging patients at the first point of contact, and the EQIC team provided resources to review and implement before the next meeting.

Announcements

Culture of Safety survey registration begins Sept. 18

EQIC will administer the 2023 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (Culture of Safety Survey) this fall. Survey registration will be open from Sept. 18 to Oct. 6. All hospitals are asked to register, even if opting not to take the survey, to help track participation.

EQIC will release a recording next month to review the survey options and registration process. Please watch the recording for more information on the survey, including unit-level data preparation and submission, survey promotion and post-survey reports for action planning.

The [AHRQ Core Version 2.0 Culture of Safety Survey](#), the [Value and Efficiency Supplemental Item Set](#), the [Health Information Technology Patient Safety Supplemental Item Set](#) and the [Supplemental Survey on Workplace Safety](#) will be available. The survey is exclusively electronic, accessible by both computer and phone, with English and Spanish versions available.

Please keep an eye out for the survey registration notice and contact your EQIC project manager with any questions.

2023 marks 33 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26 marks the thirty-third anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#). The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, affirming the inherent dignity of every person regardless of disability and prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, commercial facilities, telecommunications and state and local government services. Hospitals can use this observance to raise awareness about disabilities and promote equality for people with disabilities.

Tools and resources

Health equity considerations circle of safety: All-cause harm prevention model and resource tool

Did you know that severe pressure ulcers disproportionately affect people with darker skin tones? That is because many clinicians do not have the resources to accurately identify early-stage bruising and redness among people with darker skin. The IPRO Hospital Quality Improvement Contractor developed [a model](#) that identifies evidence-based health inequities like these that may contribute to patient harm and describes how to address them.

Education

TODAY!

Thursday, July 13

[Innovative approaches to addressing health equity and social determinants in rural communities](#)

1 - 2 p.m.

Advancing health equity is a national priority and this CMS community of practice session aims to increase participants' understanding of health equity and support the implementation of equitable quality improvement interventions. This event features a discussion of the Rural Health Information Hub's [Rural Health Equity Toolkit](#), including examples of how rural community health programs have sought to advance health equity.

Considerations for implementation, sustainability and evaluation will be discussed. Additionally, two HQIC hospitals will share promising practices for advancing health equity, including improved SDOH screening, using SDOH data to identify patients at risk for increased length of stay and readmissions, and developing a robust patient and family advisory council in a diverse community.

Thursday, July 27

[Novel research: How a positive safety climate improves patient outcomes and occupational health](#)

Noon - 1 p.m.

Despite the infection prevention and safety benefits associated with standard precautions, consistent adherence has been notoriously challenging. This webinar will highlight new research findings that show how safety climate and standard precautions impact healthcare-associated infection occurrence among patients and occupational health outcomes among staff. Presenters will share modifiable features within hospitals and safety climates that can improve these outcomes, policy implications and practical applications for infection preventionists, occupational health and quality.

Questions?

Please contact [Cathleen Wright](#) or your [EQIC project manager](#) with any questions.

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