

Health Equity Week is here!

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**HEALTH  
EQUITY  
WEEK  
2019**

March 27, 2019

### Welcome to Penn Medicine Health Equity Week!

All week long we are connecting staff on the front lines of healthcare delivery and our community of trainees and learners with resources and tools to increase knowledge and skills to achieve health equity.

Penn Medicine is committed to providing the best patient and family centered care to all patients regardless of their personal characteristics. During this week, we hope to advance our understanding of health and health care disparities and inspire solutions for achieving equitable care.

Continue reading to learn more about what you can do help us achieve this mission.

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## Addressing Racial Inequity In Healthcare

### What is it?

A wide body of research has shown that in the US, **racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to receive preventive medical treatments than whites and often receive lower-quality care.** Further study of this issue has also shown that even after taking into account other factors typically used to explain racial disparities- income, neighborhood, co-occurring illnesses, and health insurance type- health outcomes among blacks, in particular, were still worse than whites. The causes of these inequities are complex and likely due to a

combination of historical, structural and individual factors.

### Why is it important?

**All patients, regardless of personal characteristics such as race or ethnicity, deserve access to the best patient and family centered care possible.** Addressing racial inequity is critical to helping all patients achieve their best health and quality of life. Additionally, inequities affect our ability to improve the quality of care and increase health care costs for everyone.

### What you can do

- **Consider your own implicit biases** and how they may impact the care you provide.
- **Examine data** in your area to determine if there are inequities. Do you look at outcomes or quality metrics stratified by race or ethnicity?
- **Educate yourself and your colleagues.** Acknowledging that racial inequities exist in healthcare is the first step toward addressing them.

***Together we can ensure our culture and climate are inclusive for everyone.***

To learn more:

- [Unequal Treatment: confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health care](#)
- [Implicit Bias Lynda Course on Knowledge Link](#)
- [Harvard Implicit Bias Test](#)
- [Reducing Racial Disparities in Health Care by Confronting Racism](#)
- [Key Facts on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity](#)
- [Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to and Quality of Health Care](#)

### Celebrate Health Equity All Week Long!

Unable to make one of the in-person events? [Click here](#) to view the events that will be live streamed. Also, connect with your colleagues from across Penn Medicine by following [PennCHEA](#) on Twitter and posting using [#HEW2019](#)!

**Click Here to Learn More and See the Full Schedule of Events**