HEALTH EQUITY WEEK 2024

Health Equity Week 2024 Tip Sheet | Friday, April 5
Achieving Health Equity

What is health equity?
Health equity means that everyone has a fair opportunity to live a healthy life. To achieve health equity, we must eliminate unequal treatment within our health system as well as the unequal outcomes and/or burdens of disease.

Why is it important?
Everyone deserves to receive the best possible care and have the same opportunities to achieve optimal health, regardless of their race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, disability status, religion, primary language, and/or sexual orientation.

We know that unequal treatment exists due to institutional and structural oppression, along with provider unconscious bias that influences the way we deliver care. Due to similar biases outside our health system walls, there is also unequal access to care and unequal overall health.

What can you do?

- Approach all patients with respect, cultural humility, and the understanding that each and every encounter with a patient is a negotiation between your worldview and theirs.
- Do not assume you provide the same high-quality care to all patients. Examine your data and check to see if you are routinely providing the same care to all.
- Use Slicer Dicer, a self-service data tool that is embedded into PennChart and can serve as a first look at data to determine potential trends and additional data needs.
  - For education on Slicer Dicer, access the myPennDataStore—Analytics Storefront and click on the "Education" module.

Engage in activities beyond Health Equity Week:

- *View:* The health equity module and assign it to your team.
- *Join and promote upcoming learning opportunities:*
  - The DEI Café, "Alzheimer's Disease and the Black Community," presented by Morgann Adams, Penn Memory Center Outreach Coordinator, on Thursday, April 11, from 10 to 11 a.m. Click here to join.
  - "Navigating Threats to Transgender Health: Insights from Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen," presented by Rodrigo Heng-Lehtinen, Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, on Tuesday, April 16, from noon to 1 p.m. Registration is required. This event is hosted by the Penn Center for Public Health, Penn Eidos, and The Penn Medicine Program for LGBTQ Health.
  - "Advancing Health Equity," an online graduate course for Penn Medicine faculty, staff, and students. This course introduces tools and frameworks for identifying health disparities and designing strategies to improve health equity and population health. The course runs from May 21 through July 1. For more information, contact Caitlin O'Neill by emailing MEHPonline@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.