

Working Together to Enhance Quality in Free and Charitable Clinics



“When a person receives high-quality health care, he or she has received the right services, at the right time, and in the right way to achieve the best possible health.”

— National Quality Forum

The Roadmap to Health Equity will provide a valuable tool for clinics and associations.

In the United States, free and charitable clinics serve low-income patients who are either uninsured or underinsured. Clinics and their associations need to know who is currently receiving care and at what level. A consortium of stakeholders including Americares, Loyola University Chicago and the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics is convening the Roadmap to Health Equity to design an infrastructure to enable clinics across the country to collect and report on quality measures.

By collecting and reporting on a standardized set of quality measures, the Roadmap to Health Equity will lay a foundation for improvements in care and give clinics a tool to demonstrate quality of care and assess their progress in promoting health equity.

The quality measures selected by Roadmap stakeholders stand to benefit every participating clinic, state association and the free and charitable sector as a whole by providing stakeholders with a tool to evaluate care. The data that emerges from the measures will also serve to address myths and misconceptions about the quality of care provided by the sector.

Join Us

Roadmap to Health Equity provides an opportunity for supporters at every level to contribute to an improved health care system in the United States.

Clinics and associations—contribute to the discussion and collection of measures.

Academics—contribute to the rigorous methods of data collection and analysis.

Nonprofits and social service agencies—ensure the equity measures include the people you serve.

Corporations, Foundation and individuals—support ongoing improvement in the nation’s health care safety net.



Roadmap is multi-stage, multi-year voluntary program for clinics and state associations that are interested in reporting their quality measures and health equity on a national level. While many clinics and state associations already have adopted accreditation, recognition and standards of care, the focus of Roadmap is different: Its tools will measure process and patient-level outcomes. To avoid duplication, Roadmap will use existing evidence-based quality measure sets.

Timeline

2017

- The Why, What, How and Steering committees are formed, and Roadmap is launched.

2018

- The Steering Committee ensures that health equity and the patient voice are woven throughout all committees and provides overall governance and oversight.
- The How Committee considers the technological barriers and opportunity for measure collection and reporting.
- The Why Committee makes the case for why clinics should participate in the initiative.
- The What Committee identifies a menu of up to 15 patient level measures for clinics to report on.
- Roadmap to Health Equity Conference, Nevada, October 16 - 17.

2019

- The Steering Committee provides guidance to committees and strategic direction for Roadmap.
- The How Committee identifies the tool that clinics and associations will use to gather data on quality measures and addresses data validation.
- The What Committee considers current measure sets and additions or changes.
- The Why Committee suggests ways to invite clinics and associations to Roadmap.
- Launch pilot repository.

2020–2025

- Roadmap continues with process and measure consideration with an eye towards quality and improvement.

Contact us:



AmeriCares 88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902
americares.org



Health Equity

“...ideally everyone (can) attain their full health potential and...no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of their social position or other socially determined circumstance.”

— World Health Organization

Call to Action for Health Equity for Free and Charitable Clinics:

This call to action aims to remind us of the collaborative approach needed to promote health equity among more than 2 million patients during this multi-year undertaking:

1. Collecting and understanding quality outcomes aids in the provision of optimized care for everyone.
2. Publicly acknowledging our strengths in achieving health equity provides opportunities for celebration, and acknowledging our challenges provides opportunities for a focus on change.
3. Engaging free and charitable clinic leaders and associations—and a spectrum of technology experts, quality improvement professionals, academia and health care stakeholders—as partners in the collection of diverse, evidence-based quality measures is essential to the success of this initiative.