What Might Accountability for Health Equity Goals Look Like?

Racial and ethnic inequities in health care have persisted despite numerous efforts to address them over the years. A 2024 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine examined the major drivers behind these inequities, provided insights into successful and unsuccessful interventions, and made recommendations to advance health equity goals. To ensure those goals are met, accountability is needed across multiple sectors, including all levels of government, individual health care systems, public and private payers, and other entities involved in health care. Some measures for accountability are listed below.

Federal, State, and

Tribal Agencies

Research Funders

Individuals

Health Care Law and Payment Policies · Policies to support equitable health care access, quality, and affordability serve as the foundation to remove persistent barriers to equitable health care services.

- Identification of clear goals and objectives and agreedupon metrics to track progress toward goals and imposition of consequences for those who do not achieve these goals and objectives.
- · Adjustment of health care provider payments to include the social risk burden of their patients and evaluation of payment reform innovations not against short-term cost savings but against health care equity.

Health Care Delivery

Health Care

- Incorporation of competencies for health equity into health education accreditation standards, health professional licensing and certification, accreditation of health care organizations, and continuing education programs.
 - · Identification and adoption of performance metrics that are inclusive and reliant on patient experiences.
 - Transparency and authentic engagement of all relevant actors at all phases of health care innovation or intervention planning and implementation.

Community

Community decision

making is essential to

engagement, voices, and

bringing community

leadership to the planning

and implementation of

health care programs and

Research and Infrastructure

- Investment in health equity research that promotes the development of successful interventions to eliminate inequities and implementation studies or comparative effectiveness studies to facilitate widespread adoption and sustainability of the most effective interventions.
- Robust data collection, tracking, and reporting efforts built on uniform standards that track equity goals.
- Enforcement of comprehensive guidelines on the collecting and reporting of data on race and ethnicity that reflect the self-identities of racially and ethnically minoritized individuals.

Health Represel interventions.

Hospitals and health care systems conducting community health needs assessments with community members to identify health care equity problems and

working with communities to address barriers to achieving equity goals.

Empowerment of communities to drive accountability toward health equity by ensuring that health care systems incorporate community recommendations into their practices and policies.