Improving Minority Health and Addressing Health Disparities

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AHRQ Strategies to Improve Minority Health

- Agency Overview
- Data and the NHQR/DR
- Research and Training
- Dissemination & Consumer/Patient Engagement
- Challenges & Opportunities

The 3 T's Road Map to Transforming U.S. Health Care

T indicates translation. T1, T2, and T3 represent the 3 major translational steps in the proposed framework to translate the health care system. The activities in each translational step test the outcomes of prior research activities in progressively broader settings to advance dissemination and eventual implementation of effective interventions through clinical research and eventually to widespread implementation through transformation of health care delivery. Double-headed arrows represent the essential need for feedback loops between and across the parts of the translation framework.

AHRQ Priorities

Effective Health Care Program
- Comparative Effectiveness Reviews
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Clear Findings for Multiple Audiences
- Quality & Cost-Effectiveness, e.g. Prevention and Pharmaceutical Outcomes
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
- MRSA/VA

Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Visit-Level Information on Medical Expenditures
- Annual Quality & Disparities Reports

Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys
- Quality & Cost-Effectiveness, e.g. Prevention and Pharmaceutical Outcomes
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
- MRSA/VA

Patient Safety
- Health IT
- Health IT Organizations
- New Patient Safety Grants

Ambulatory Patient Safety
- Patient Safety Improvement Corps

Disparities: gaps in quality and access
- Racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care are well documented and worsening in some cases
  - Life expectancy
  - Infant mortality
  - Chronic diseases
  - Quality
- The US population continues to become more diverse (54% of US population by 2050)
- We know enough to act now

AHRQ Priority Populations
- Inner city and rural areas (including frontier areas)
- Low income groups
- Racial and ethnic minority groups
- Women and children
- The elderly
- Individuals with special health care needs, including individuals with disabilities and those who need chronic care or end-of-life health care
Need Data to Plan Change: National Healthcare Reports

Annual reports to Congress from Secretary since 2003 mandated by 1999 Healthcare Research and Quality Act
Unified team, Interagency Work Group, framework, data, methods, quality measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Report</th>
<th>Disparities Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snapshot &amp; trends in quality of health care in America</td>
<td>Snapshot &amp; trends in disparities in health care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality: Safety, effectiveness, timeliness, patient centeredness, efficiency</td>
<td>Quality + Access: Equity across race, ethnicity, &amp; socioeconomic status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variation across states</td>
<td>Variation across populations</td>
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New: 2010 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports

Reports Indicate that Quality Is Improving, but at a Slow Pace
- Overall, improvement in the quality of care remains suboptimal and access to care is not improving
- Few disparities in quality are getting smaller and almost no disparities in access are getting smaller
- Quality of care varies not only across types of care but also across parts of the country

2010 National Healthcare Disparities Report

Health care quality and access are suboptimal, especially for minority and low-income groups
- Hispanics received worse care than non-Hispanic Whites for about 60% of core measures
- Blacks, American Indians and Alaska Natives received worse care than Whites for about 40% of core measures
- Asians received worse care than Whites for about 20% of core measures
- Poor people received worse care than high-income people for about 80% of core measures
Quality vs. All States

Weak
Average
Strong

Performance Meter: All Measures

Most Recent Year
Baseline Year

DC: Overall Care

Very Weak
Very Strong

2010 National Healthcare Quality Report, State Snapshots

DC Snapshot: Overall Health Care Quality Measures

Measure
% of women age 40 and over who received a mammogram in the last 2 years
% of hospital patients with heart attack and left ventricular systolic dysfunction who were prescribed ACE inhibitor or ARB at discharge
HIV infection deaths per 100,000 population

Performance
Better than average
Average
Worse than average

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

- Annual survey of 15,000 households:
  - Provides national estimates of health care use, expenditures, insurance coverage, sources of payment, access to care and health care quality
- Permits studies of:
  - Distribution of expenditures and sources of payment
  - Role of demographics, family structure, insurance
  - Expenditures for specific conditions
  - Trends over time

www.meps.ahrq.gov
The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project

Patient enters hospital

Billing record created

AHRO standardizes data to create uniform HCUP databases

States store data in varying formats

Hospital sends billing data and any additional data elements to Data Organizations

Research Opportunities

- R01 Research Grants
  - 3 application receipt dates per year
  - up to $500K/yr
- R03 Small Research Grants
  - 3 application receipt dates per year
  - up to $100K/yr
- Large and Small Conference Grants (R13) - $50-100K/yr
- Research Demonstration and Dissemination (18) Grants

Training Opportunities

- Pre and Postdoctoral Training
  - NRSA Institutional Training Programs (T32)
  - NRSA Predoctoral Fellowships for Underrepresented Minority Students (F31)
  - NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowships (F32)
  - Dissertation Grants (R36)
- Career Development Awards
  - Mentored Clinical Scientist Awards (K08)
  - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)
  - Independent Scientist Awards (K02)
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Includes a significant focus on reducing health disparities and improving the health of diverse populations
- Requires data collection and reporting by race, ethnicity & language
- Will provide an evidence base for action by identifying gaps and trends
- Requires development of a Quality & Prevention Strategy for the Nation
- Provides research funding

ACA and Disparities Research

- New Offices of Minority Health at AHRQ
- Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute
  - Comparative effectiveness research
  - Research funding (peer review & public comment required)
  - Requires a focus on racial and ethnic minorities, gender, age, and health disparities
  - AHRQ funding: $8M in FY11, $24M in FY12

ACA Provisions and AHRQ

- Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute
  - AHRQ Director on Executive Board
  - Funding for research dissemination, training grants to build capacity, & database development
- Development of a National Quality Strategy
  - Reducing health disparities across populations & geographic areas is a criterion for priority setting
  - Framework components: Better Care, Affordable, Care & Health People/Healthy Communities
- Specific focus on prevention through Prevention and Public Health Fund
ACA Provisions and AHRQ

- New Office of Minority Health at AHRQ
  - AHRQ Action Plan linked to HHS Action Plan to Reduce Disparities
  - Sets specific objectives and expectations and requires accountability

Specific Research Priorities
- Research Centers for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Services (RFA-HS-11-005) – Health Equity Research Center of Excellence
- Research on Health Issues for Minority Women (NOT-HS-11-013)

AHRQ Spanish-Language Consumer Education Tools

- Preventive health screening, treatment options, quality/patient safety
- Public service announcements broadcast by more than 400 Spanish-language radio stations
- Public service announcements in stores where Spanish speakers shop
- Consejos de salud para ti, a monthly online personal health advice column

http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/espanol

Example of AHRQ Outreach

- AHRQ reaches Latinos through organizations including
  - State and local health departments
  - Other HHS offices and agencies, including the Office of Global Health Affairs and the Health Resources and Services Administration
  - Hospitals
  - Latin American consulates, such as Mexico
  - Mexican and other Latin American consulates
  - Senior Centers
  - Faith-based organizations
  - Hispanic health fair organizers
Preguntas Campaign: AHRQ and the Ad Council

- A new, multimedia Spanish-language campaign
- Features television, radio, print and Web ads
- Supports HHS plan to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities

www.ahrq.gov/preguntas

Videos for Consumers/Patients

- 10-minute video helps patients understand how they should use anticoagulant drugs
- Basic information about blood thinners medications including reasons why a clinician might prescribe it
- Tips on diet, medicines and foods to avoid and precautions for some daily activities

Brochure available in Spanish and English

www.ahrq.gov/consumers/btpills.htm#videos

Current Challenges

- Concerns about health spending – about $2.3 trillion per year in the U.S. and growing
- Large variations in clinical care
- Health care disparities persist and in many cases are worsening
- A lot of uncertainty about best practices involving treatments and technologies
- Pervasive problems with the quality of care that people receive
- Translating scientific advances into actual clinical practice and usable information for clinicians and patients
Action Now

- Ongoing and enhanced focus & activities within government (federal, state, local) & private sector
- Recognized importance of including strategies for eliminating disparities as part of quality improvement
- Critical legislative push (ARRA, ACA, CHIPRA)
- Collaboration, innovation, and setting common goals

Aiming for the Sweet Spot

- There is an overlap among patient-centered care, workplace wellness and population health
- All three endeavors call for organizing the system around the patient rather than around systems of care

Thank You

AHRQ Mission
To improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans

AHRQ Vision
As a result of AHRQ’s efforts, American health care will provide services of the highest quality, with the best possible outcomes, at the lowest cost
Contact Information

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