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Achieving the “Four I’s” for Health Equity ***Finding Answers grantees taking steps outlined*** ***in new National Quality Forum report***

CHICAGO (September 28, 2017)—The National Quality Forum has released its final report in a series on health equity, informed in part by the work of *Finding Answers: Solving Disparities Through Payment and Delivery System Reform*. A national leader in the effort to improve health care quality, the National Quality Forum develops care standards across many areas of medicine, and recognizes that equity and quality go hand-in-hand. The report, “[A Roadmap for Promoting Health Equity and Eliminating Disparities: The Four I’s for Health Equity](#),” highlights how measurement and quality standards, coupled with payment and care delivery reform, can help drive more equitable health care.

“A sensible approach to health equity utilizes multiple policy levers rather than focusing on an isolated one,” said Finding Answers Director Marshall Chin, MD, MPH, who chaired the NQF Disparities Standing Committee that produced the report. “In addition, these policies must be explicitly designed with the goal of reducing disparities if health equity is to be achieved,” Dr. Chin sums up some key points in a post on the Solving Disparities website blog: <http://www.solvingdisparities.org/blog/nqf-roadmap-promoting-health-equity-and-eliminating-disparities-diverse-voices-produced-strong>

The report references work and resources available through Finding Answers. Below are links to those resources:

- The [Roadmap to Reduce Disparities](#) (from which NQF’s new roadmap draws some of its lessons) is a six-step framework for healthcare organizations to improve minority health and foster equity. The Roadmap draws upon lessons learned from Finding Answers’ work with its grantee health care organizations as well as from systematic literature reviews. It is designed so that an equity-focused quality improvement agenda can be developed and implemented sustainably. <http://www.solvingdisparities.org/tools/roadmap>
- Many of Finding Answers’ lessons and insights were derived from Finding Answers’ previous work with 33 health care provider organizations on [interventions](#) designed to reduce disparities in care for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and depression. Detailed information on each of these interventions is available here, sorted by disease type: <http://www.solvingdisparities.org/research/real-world-examples>
- Finding Answers also published 11 [systematic reviews](#) of over 200 racial and ethnic disparities interventions to identify successful strategies and provide health care organizations, providers and payers with recommendations on how they can address disparities in their own organizations. Key learnings and links to reviews can be found here: <http://www.solvingdisparities.org/promote-equity/systematic-reviews>

Finding Answers

Solving Disparities Through Payment and Delivery System Reform

The “four I’s” for health equity outlined in the new NQF report are:

- Identify and prioritize reducing health disparities
- Implement evidence-based interventions to reduce disparities
- Invest in the development and use of health equity performance measures
- Incentivize the reduction of health disparities and achievement of health equity

Implementing these action steps will take a lot of trial-and-error. Luckily, Finding Answers’ [current grantees](#) are already exploring these types of payment and delivery reform projects to promote equity. You can read more about this work here: <http://www.solvingdisparities.org/reducing-health-care-disparities-through-payment-reform>

To speak with Dr. Chin or learn more about the report and what Finding Answers is doing to move forward on health equity, please contact Katherine Pflaumer at 267-670-7001 or kpflaumer@steegethompson.com.

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About Finding Answers

Finding Answers: Solving Disparities Through Payment and Delivery System Reform is a national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based at the University of Chicago. The program is a cornerstone of the Foundation’s strategy to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care. To learn more about useful tools and initiatives dedicated to eliminating disparities in health care, visit www.SolvingDisparities.org and follow @FndgAnswers.

About the National Quality Forum

The **National Quality Forum** leads national collaboration to improve health and healthcare quality through measurement. Learn more at www.qualityforum.org.