

Applied Equity Example: Health Equity Implementation Framework

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Overview: This study introduced a new framework which combines an implementation science framework, Integrated-Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services (i-PARIHS), with a health disparities framework focused on the healthcare setting, the Health Care Disparities Framework. The authors then applied the combined framework to the disparity of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) treatment among Black patients seeking care within the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The applied study employed qualitative interviews and a quantitative screener to fill gaps about Black VA patients' experiences with HCV treatment. The team analyzed transcripts using codes based on the newly-defined Health Equity Implementation Framework determinants. The new framework allowed the team to capture and address information related to implementation and also to healthcare disparities, providing insight beyond what either framework could offer on its own.

Population: Black, Southern, rural, older adult male patients at the VA diagnosed with HCV

Topic: Hepatitis C

Setting: VA hospital Southern part of the US

Socio-ecological level(s): Patient and Organizational levels

Sector(s): Health care

Type of study: Mixed methods

Framework(s): i-PARIHS combined with the Health Care Disparities Framework

Implementation stage: Hypothesis-generating

Health equity dimension(s): Addressing healthcare disparities; marginalized groups

Implementation strategies: N/A

Dissemination and Implementation Science Framework: Health Equity Implementation Framework

How TMF is operationalized: i-PARIHS was combined with the Health Care Disparities Framework to create a new framework. In the application of the newly created framework, the team coded interviews using the Health Equity Implementation Framework determinants in order to identify barriers and facilitators to HCV treatment.

How equity is applied: The authors designed a new framework combining an implementation science framework and a health disparities framework. Equity-specific elements added to i-PARIHS in the new framework were factors related to disparities at the patient, provider, clinical encounter, and health care system levels. In addition, the framework captures societal influence on every determinant including the economies, policies, and sociopolitical forces. In the application of the framework, the team specifically recruited Black male patients

recognizing the historical disparities that Black patients have faced in receiving HCV treatment both in and outside the VA.

Contribution to Dissemination and Implementation Science: By combining an implementation science framework with a health disparities framework, the new framework allowed for the identification of implementation barriers likely unique to Black VA patients, as well as implementation barriers that may have been reported by other patient groups.