STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE CARE DURING COVID-19

Health Justice, Defined
When every person has the opportunity to attain their full health potential. When no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.

Equality

Equity

Justice
**Why Racism is Important in COVID-19**

### Racism

**Social Determinants of Health**
- including access to healthcare, food, housing, and education

**Co-Morbid Conditions**

**COVID-19 Incidence & Outcomes**

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**IMPACTS**

**Inequities in COVID-19**

- Increased rates of hospitalization and death in **Black, Hispanic and Native American communities**
- Higher prevalence of COVID-19 disease among those of **low socioeconomic status**
- Higher risk of infection in **prisons, group homes, homeless shelters and residential treatment facilities**
- Notable increase in xenophobia and bias towards **Asian Americans**
Stress, time constraints, fatigue and fear increase the risk of biased behavior among health care providers and among the general public.

To accommodate social distancing, many health care services are being offered via computer or telephone. Yet, some people may have difficulty accessing services this way (e.g. people with disabilities or people without broadband internet access).

COVID-Specific Threats to Health Justice

Living and working circumstances make social distancing challenging for some (e.g. undocumented people, the LGBTQ community, survivors of Intimate Partner Violence [IPV]).

Inequitable access to COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

Undocumented people and people without insurance have limited access to public safety nets.

Challenges Accessing Telehealth

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Stress, time constraints, fatigue and fear increase the risk of biased behavior among health care providers and among the general public.
STRATEGIES

Confront Bias with Proven Upstander Techniques

**Direct**
Directly address biased behavior. Advise the person that their behavior is biased or ask them to clarify their meaning/intent.

**Distract**
Disrupt a biased interaction by mentioning or doing something unrelated. Consider using when there is a concern for violence.

**Delegate**
Ask another person to help you address the biased behavior.

**Delay**
Wait until a safer/more appropriate time then address biased behavior.

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Increase Access to Community-Based Testing and Vaccination

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Design and Conduct Studies with Community Input and Participation from Inception

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Advocate: Ask policymakers to ensure that all pregnant people have access to care, that health care workers have the resources they need to stay safe, and that pregnant people are included in COVID-19 research.

“Nothing about us without us”
Provide Equitable Care

- Recognize bias—in all its forms—is at the root of inequities
- Screen for social determinants of health
- Ask about:
  - vaccination status
  - ability to safely social distance
  - availability of cleaning supplies
  - access to internet/data for virtual visits
  - Screen more frequently for IPV and safety
- Identify key community resources:
  - Food banks or pantries
  - Free COVID-19 vaccination sites
  - Housing assistance
  - Infection mitigation supplies (e.g. masks, sanitizer)
  - Intimate partner violence services
- Provide information in the language that your patient speaks, reads, or understands.
- Increase capacity for care for vulnerable populations (i.e. increase provider, nursing, social service resources)

Remain Vigilant in Collecting Clinical, Quality & Safety Metrics

Data should be stratified by age, race, ethnicity, gender/gender identity, payor, employment status, and preferred language.

Collect COVID-specific outcomes such as testing access and hospitalization rates.

For more information, visit SMFM.org/COVID19