



Action Steps to Address Inequities in Cancer Care Access, Treatment, and Outcomes in Your Community

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CME
OUTFITTERS

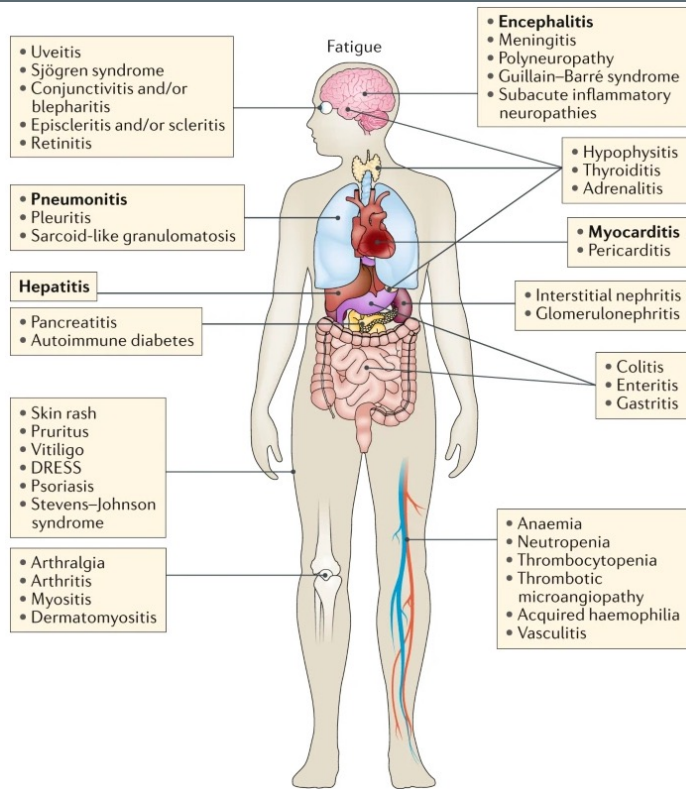


Learning Objective

Develop strategies to reduce health disparities
in patients experiencing irAEs



Overview of irAEs



- Disruption of the homeostatic mechanisms induces a unique spectrum of side effects called irAEs
- irAEs reported in 70-88% and ≥ 3 grade in 5-25% of patients
- Most common irAEs: dermatitis, enterocolitis, transaminitis, and endocrinopathies
- Most commonly reported irAEs of any grade: dermatologic toxicities
- Higher incidence of \geq grade 3 irAE: gastrointestinal toxicity
- If untreated, they can rapidly progress to life-threatening conditions and may also be fatal

General ASCO Guidelines

High level of suspicion that new symptoms are treatment-related.

Grade 1:

- ICI therapy should be continued with close monitoring.
- Exception of some neurologic, hematologic, and cardiac toxicities.

Grade 2:

- Hold ICI for most grade 2 toxicities.
- Consider resuming when symptoms and/or laboratory values revert to grade 1 or less.
- Corticosteroids (initial dose of 0.5 to 1 mg/kg/d of prednisone or equivalent) may be administered.

Grade 3:

- Hold ICI.
- Initiate high-dose corticosteroids (prednisone 1 to 2 mg/kg/d or methylprednisolone IV 1 to 2 mg/kg/d). Corticosteroids should be tapered over the course of at least 4 to 6 weeks.
- If symptoms do not improve with 48 to 72 hours of high-dose corticosteroid, infliximab may be offered for some toxicities.
- When symptoms and/or laboratory values revert to grade 1 or less, rechallenging with ICI may be offered; however, caution is advised, especially in those patients with early-onset irAEs.

Grade 4:

- Permanent discontinuation of ICI, with the exception of endocrinopathies that have been controlled by hormone replacement.

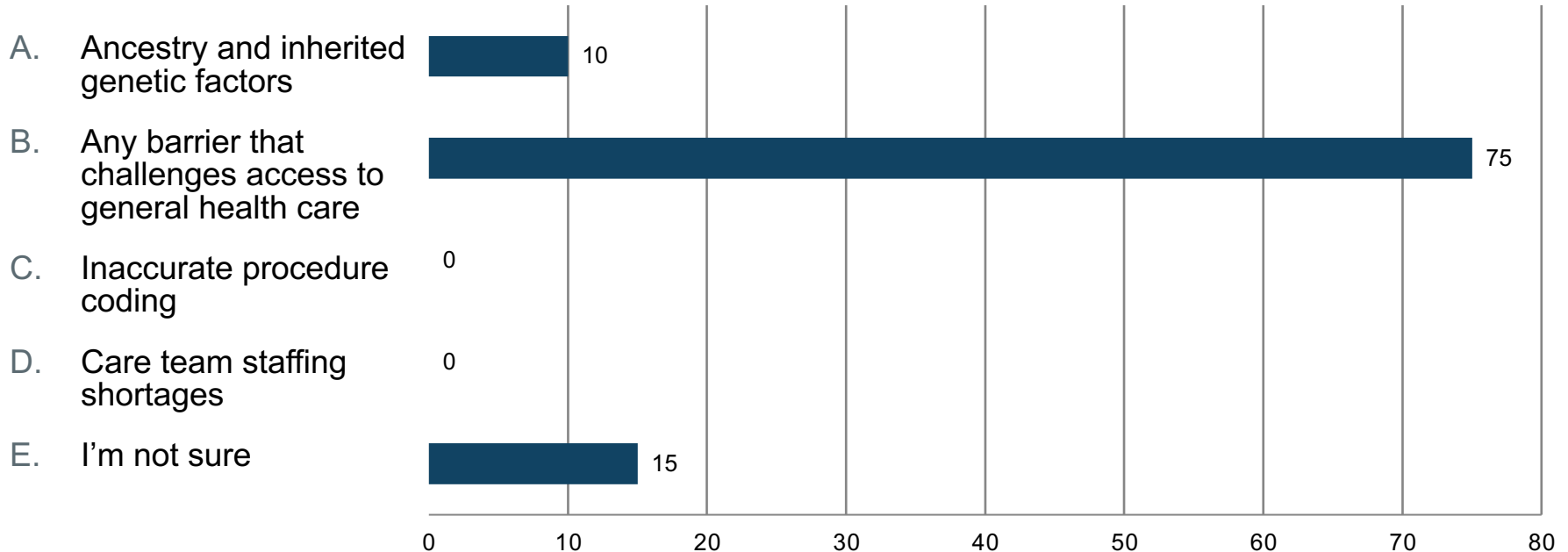
Polling Question

Which of the following could result in inequities in the management of immune-related adverse events?

- A. Ancestry and inherited genetic factors
- B. Any barrier that challenges access to general health care
- C. Inaccurate procedure coding
- D. Care team staffing shortages
- E. I'm not sure

Polling Question

Which of the following could result in inequities in the management of immune-related adverse events?



Barriers to Accessing Immunotherapies

- Patient level
- Provider level
- Systemic level
- Societal level

Barriers accessing and adhering to immunotherapies and managing irAEs, specifically, mirrors the challenges to accessing health care, generally



Factors That Influence Access to Immunotherapies

- Patient level
 - Provider level
 - Systemic level
 - Societal level
- Comorbid conditions, overall health status
 - Patient knowledge
 - Health care beliefs
 - Personal support system



Recognize the patient is not the "problem," but rather the broader culture and health care organizations and providers are sources of barriers

Factors That Influence Access to Immunotherapies

- Patient level
 - Provider level
 - Systemic level
 - Societal level
- Failure to provide guideline-recommended care
 - Biomarker testing
 - Cancer treatments
 - Clinical trials
 - Provider knowledge, training, skillsets, years of practice, specialty
 - Beliefs and attitudes (eg, conscious and unconscious biases)

Factors That Influence Access to Immunotherapies

- Patient level
 - Provider level
 - **Systemic level**
 - Societal level
- Geographic location
 - Availability of culturally competent services
 - Inadequate medical interpretation services
 - Health care worker diversity
 - Affiliation with research or academic health care systems
 - Inequities of physical infrastructure and technology
 - Processes (eg, reimbursement contracts, scheduling and referrals, hours of operation, and availability of language options)
 - Inadequate staffing (burn out and workload)

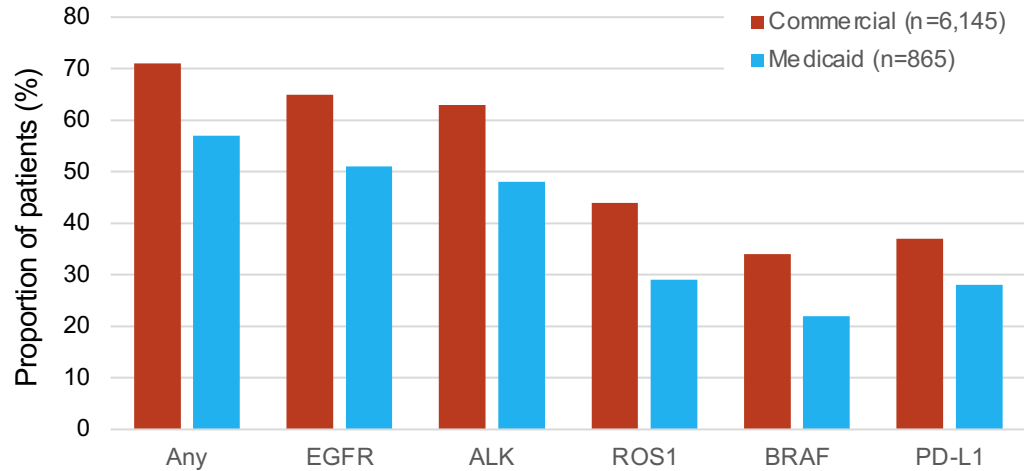
Factors That Influence Access to Immunotherapies

- Patient level
- Provider level
- Systemic level
- Societal level

- Social "drivers" of health
- Socioeconomic and health care policies
- A high proportion of uninsured or underinsured individuals in a population adversely affects access to care and overall quality of care in the whole population
 - Inadequate medical insurance
 - Unequal/disparate job opportunities
 - Unequal/disparate educational opportunities
 - Inadequate public transportation infrastructure

Disparities in Biomarker Testing in Lung Cancer

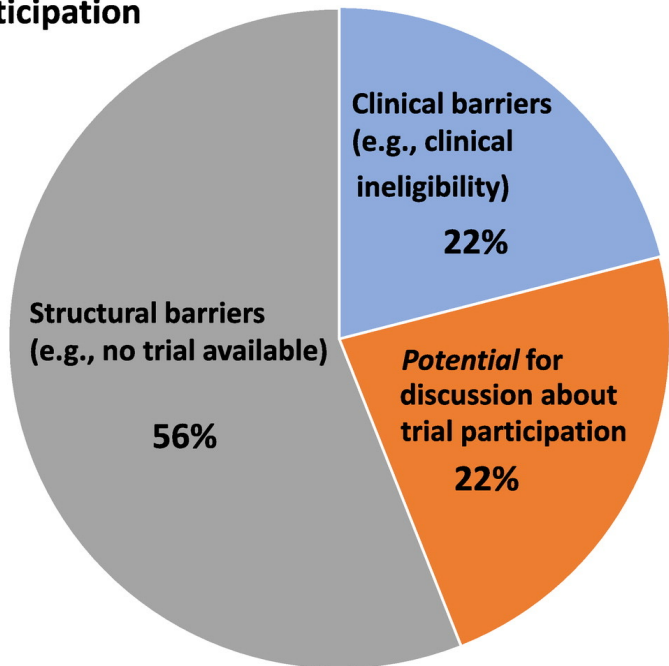
- Medicaid beneficiaries are less likely to receive biomarker testing (HR 0.81; $p=.001$)
 - Similar disparities exist in receipt of first-line treatment and first-line biomarker-driven therapy



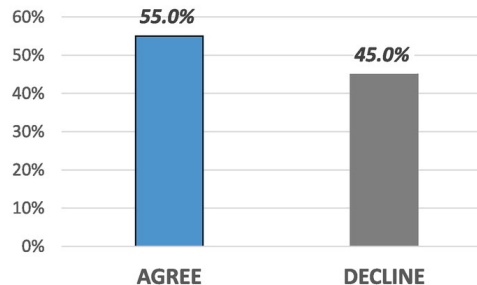
- Black patients have lower next-generation sequencing (NGS) testing rates at any given time, including before first-line therapy, compared to White patients.
 - Similar disparities in NGS testing rates among patients with CRC
 - Biomarker and NGS testing associated with clinical trial enrollment

Access to Clinical Trials

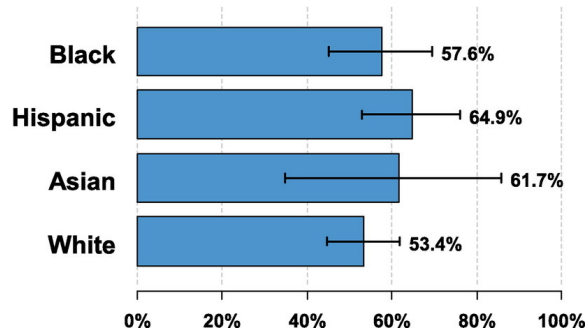
Primary Barriers to Trial Participation



If Offered a Trial, What Proportion of Patients Agree to Participate?



Results by Race/Ethnicity



Providing a Platform to Hear the Missing Patient's Voice



Monitor longitudinal changes in symptoms for early detection of irAEs

Open access

Original research



Evaluating the psychometric properties of the Immunotherapy module of the MD Anderson Symptom Inventory

Tito Mendoza ¹, Ajay Sheshadri,² Mehmet Altan,³ Kenneth Hess,⁴ Goldy George,¹ Bettzy Stephen,⁵ Lilibeth Castillo,⁵ Enedelia Rodriguez,⁵ Jing Gong,⁵ Christine Peterson,⁴ Jordi Rodon Ahnert,⁵ Siqing Fu,⁵ Sarina A Piha-Paul,⁵ Shubham Pant,⁵ Ecaterina Dumbrava,⁵ Timonthy A Yap,⁵ Filip Janku,⁵ Apostolia M Tsimberidou,⁵ Vivek Subbiah,⁵ Daniel D Karp,⁵ Abdulrazzak Zarifa,⁵ Lacey M McQuinn,⁵ Charles Cleeland,¹ David S Hong,⁵ Aung Naing ⁵

Date: / /
(month) (day) (year)

Participant Initials:

Study Subject #:

TimePoint:

M. D. Anderson Symptom Inventory - Immunotherapy


Part I. How severe are your symptoms?

People with cancer frequently have symptoms that are caused by their disease or by their treatment. We ask you to rate how severe the following symptoms have been *in the last one week*. Please select a number from 0 (symptom has not been present) to 10 (the symptom was as bad as you can imagine it could be) for each item.

	As Bad As You Can Imagine										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Your pain at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Your fatigue (tiredness) at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Your nausea at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Your disturbed sleep at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Your feelings of being distressed (upset) at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Your shortness of breath at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Your problem with remembering things at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Your problem with lack of appetite at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Your feeling drowsy (sleepy) at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Your having a dry mouth at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Your feeling sad at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Your vomiting at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Your numbness or tingling at its WORST?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Role of Health Care Team in Supporting the Patient

- Health insurance coverage increases the likelihood of services across the cancer care continuum
- Improve patient's understanding and literacy on
 - The patient's cancer
 - The health care system
 - Treatment options
 - Cost of treatment
 - Importance of adherence to treatment
 - Potential adverse effects



Improve providers' and health systems' ability to successfully educate patients and help them navigate their cancer care

Health-related Social Needs Survey

Are you worried that in the next 2 months, you may not have a safe or stable place to live? (risk of eviction, being kicked out, homelessness)

Are you worried that the place you are living now is making you sick? (has mold, bugs/ rodents, water leaks, not enough heat)

In the past 3 months, has the electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services to your home?

In the last 12 months, did you worry that your food could run out before you got money to buy more?

In the last 3 months, has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments or getting your medications?

In the last 3 months, did you have to skip buying medications or going to doctor's appointments to save money?

Do you need help getting childcare or care for an elderly or sick adult?

Do you need legal help? (child/family services, immigration, housing discrimination, domestic issues, etc.)

Are you finding it so hard to get along with a partner, spouse, or family members that it is causing you stress?

Does anyone in your life hurt you, threaten you, frighten you, or make you feel unsafe?

Culturally Competent Care

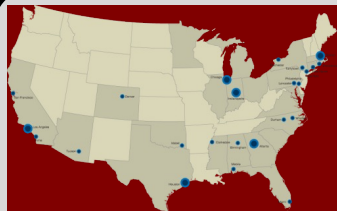
- Our own positive or negative stereotypes about members of other groups
- Fear of being labeled racist, sexist, homophobic, etc. or discovering previously unrecognized prejudices within ourselves
- Expectation that we must be certain about issues of diversity and cultural competence
- Lack of awareness of hot buttons to which we are the most vulnerable
- Not knowing how to respond to angry comments or anger directed at us
- Being overwhelmed by our strong emotions caused by a situation
- Lack of skills for cross-cultural communication
- Siloing accountability

Best Practices for Cultural Competency

- Value diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Accept responsibility, accountability measures
- Adapt materials and approaches
- Use a team approach
- Implement structural changes
- Avoid generalizations about vulnerable groups and learn to recognize and reject preexisting beliefs
- Challenge racism, heterosexism, genderism, and sexism among colleagues, the institution, and the community
- Focus on understanding information provided by individuals within the context at hand
- Resist the temptation to classify or label; avoid fixed and generalized information

Advancing Health Equity

National
Grantee
Program



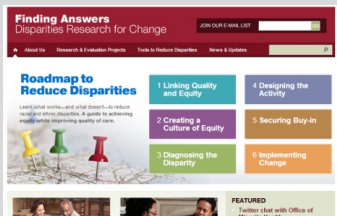
- Test innovative programs
- 36 grantees nationally
- Rigorous evaluation

Systematic
Reviews



- 11 systematic reviews
- Cross-cutting themes
- Searchable database

Technical
Assistance



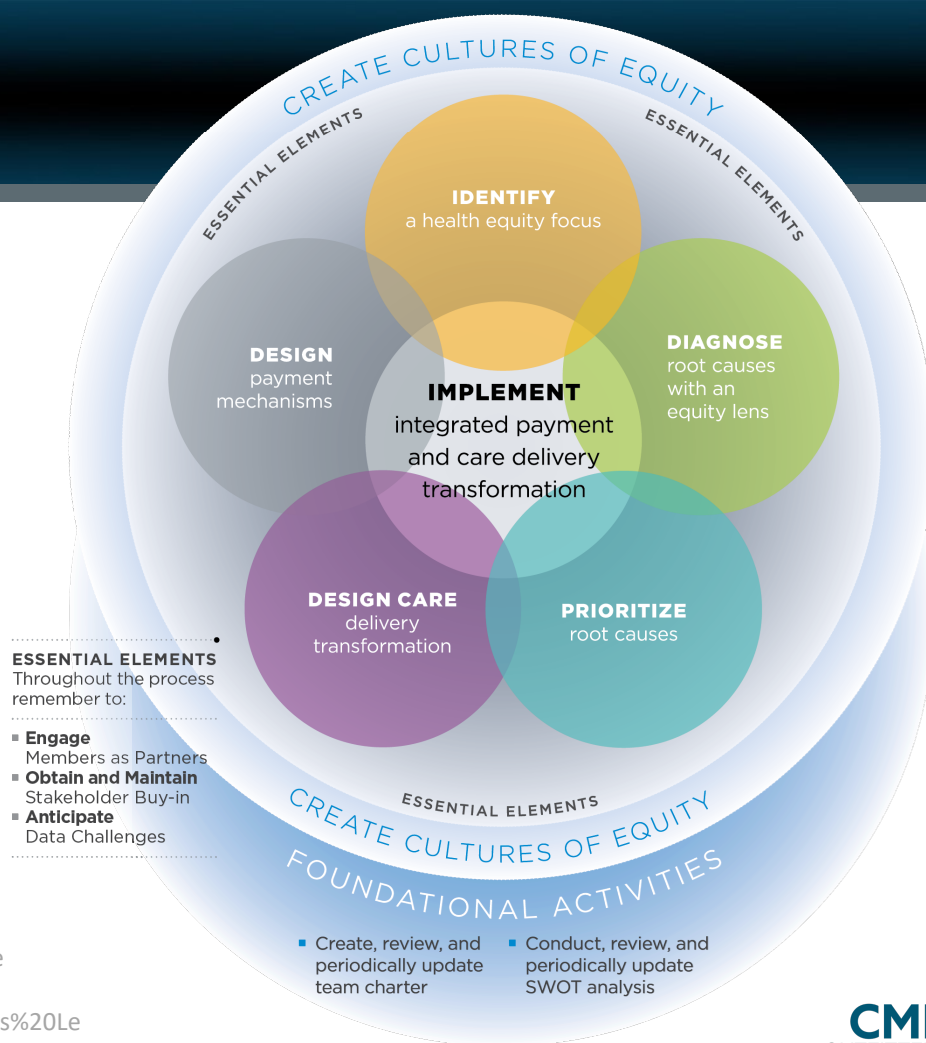
- Roadmap to reduce disparities
- Resource and implementation guides
- Virtual and on-site / 18-mos

Principal Findings

- Multifactorial Interventions
- Culturally Tailored Quality Improvement
- Nurse-led Within Larger Systems Change
- Multidisciplinary Teams
- Interactive, Skills-Based Education
- Patient Navigation
- Family and Community Actively Involved
- Imbalanced Focus on Patients vs. Providers, Systems, Community Engagement, and Policy

Implementation of Systemic Changes

Systemic changes to improve irAE management will require implementation of integrated payment and care delivery



Cook SC, et al. Designing and implementing integrated care and payment transformation initiatives to advance health equity: Lessons learned from three pioneering health care provider and health plan partnerships. 2021.

<https://www.solvingdisparities.org/sites/default/files/AHE%202101%20Lessons%20Learned%20v4.pdf>, Accessed August 8, 2022.

Summary

- Barriers to accessing care in patients experiencing irAEs occur at all levels:
- Tools are available to identify, reduce, and eliminate SDOH and inequities
- Systemic changes to improve irAE management will require implementation of integrated payment and care delivery

SMART Goals

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely

- Identify and be aware of your own biases
- Incorporate an equity lens into all clinical, research, and quality improvement activities
- Partner with patients and communities to improve health care systems and cancer care

CME Outfitters

AFTER
THE SHOW

Questions & Answers



To Receive Credit

To receive CME/CE credit for this activity, participants must complete the post-test and evaluation online.

Participants will be able to download and print their certificate immediately upon completion.



Oncology Hub

Free resources and education to educate health care providers and patients on oncology <https://www.cmeoutfitters.com/oncology-education-hub/>

Diversity and Inclusion Hub

Free resources and education to educate health care providers and patients on health-related inequities <https://www.cmeoutfitters.com/diversity-and-inclusion-hub/>