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Next Review 04/2027

Area Leadership/
Administration
(LD)
Applicability USA Health

Health Care Disparity Policy

POLICY STATEMENT:

USA Health is committed to reducing healthcare disparities by identifying priority populations who may be experiencing healthcare disparities; collecting demographic and social determinants of health information on our patients; identifying health equity gaps; participating in quality improvement activities focused on reducing health disparities; and an annual review of our strategic plan by our chief executives and governing body members. Health equity is defined as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of age, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, and other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes.

PROCEDURE:

Health care disparities are identified in our patient population through various data sources such as: claims data, public health data, academic research, clinical and patient access information. Data may include race, ethnicity, age, and language but is not limited to those measures.

The Quality & Safety Director and the Care Management Director lead activities to reduce health care disparities for USA Hospitals. Periodic assessments will be conducted to identify health-related social needs and provide information about community resources and support services. In partnership with the Ambulatory areas as well as the University, disparities are identified, and programs are developed to improve the patient- family experience.

An assessment of the patient's health-related social needs is completed during hospitalization by Patient Access, Nursing, and Care Management. Further health related social needs will include the following:

- Access to transportation
- Difficulty paying for prescriptions or medical bills

- Education and literacy
- Food insecurity
- Housing insecurity

USA Health provides information surrounding social determinants of health.

Each USA Health hospital will identify health care disparities in its population by stratifying the quality and safety data available about these sociodemographic characteristics collected on the patient population.

A written plan describing how the hospital addresses at least one identified health care disparity and actions taken if no reduction in the disparity has been achieved. The plan may include actions such as:

- Staff training
- Education activities
- New or modified processes and
- Processes to help address patients' health-related social needs.

At least annually, USA Health will inform key stakeholders, including leaders, licensed practitioners, and staff, about it's progress to reduce identified health care disparities.

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Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Josh Snow: UH CEO	04/2024
	Deborah Browning: Chief Executive Officer - Hospital	04/2024
	Shannon Scaturro: Chief Operating Officer	04/2024
	Sherry Fryman: Chief Nursing Officer	03/2024
	Casie Crawford: Administrative Dir. of Nursing	03/2024
	Angela Duffy: Dir, Clin Compli&Regul Svcs	02/2024

Applicability

USA Health, USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital, USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute, USA Health

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