

# ACCELERATING HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

**TOGETHER ON THE QUEST  
FOR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS**

**MAY 16-18, 2023 | MINNEAPOLIS**

ORGANIZED BY



**DETAILS AT [AHA.ORG/EQUITYCONFERENCE](https://aha.org/equityconference)**



Advocate Health Care®



Atrium Health



Aurora Health Care®



Wake Forest University  
School of Medicine

Now part of  **ADVOCATE**HEALTH

# Organizational Strategies for Building Cultures of Equity: Accountability, Culture and Transparency

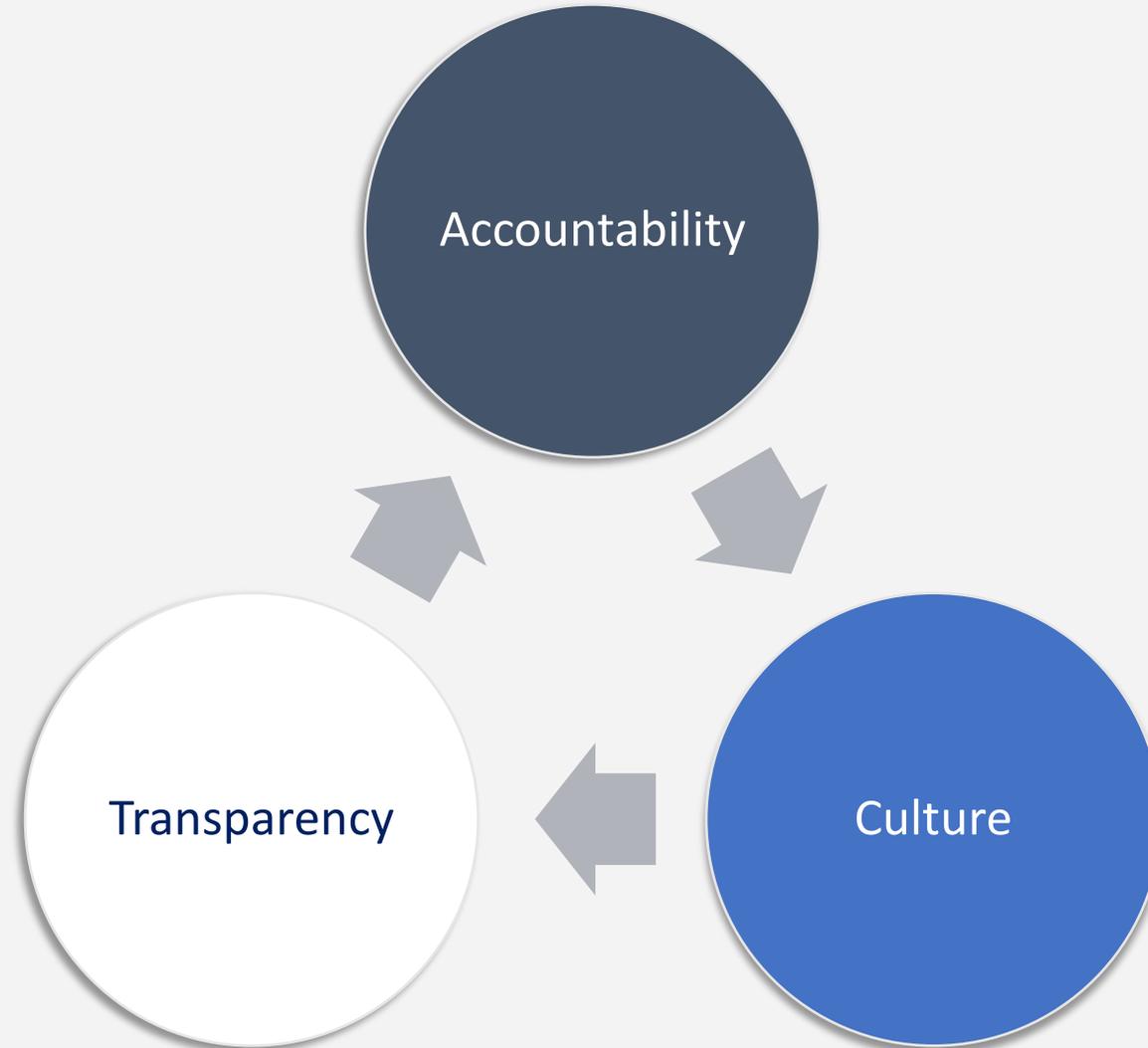
Brandi Newman, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Strategic Operations Lead  
Community and Social Impact  
Advocate Health

05/16/2023

# The Framework

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# ADVOCATE HEALTH



NEARLY  
**6M**  
UNIQUE  
PATIENTS



NEARLY  
**150K**  
TEAMMATES



MORE THAN  
**21K**  
PHYSICIANS



NEARLY  
**42K**  
NURSES



NEARLY  
**\$5B**  
COMMUNITY  
BENEFIT



MORE THAN  
**1K**  
SITES OF  
CARE



**67**  
HOSPITALS



**\$27B+**  
REVENUE

## AdvocateAuroraHealth®

**2.9M** unique patients

**77K** teammates

**10K** physicians

**22K** nurses

**\$2.4B** in community benefit

**500+** sites of care

**27** hospitals

**\$14B+** in annual revenue



## Atrium Health

**2.9M** unique patients

**73K** teammates

**11K** physicians

**20K** nurses

**\$2.46B** in community benefit

**500+** sites of care

**40** hospitals

**\$13B+** in annual revenue



Modern Healthcare  
**Best Places  
to Work 2021**





# Health Equity

**Who is  
accountable?**

**Who is  
responsible?**

# Governance and Accountability Model for the Center

**Advocate Health Board of Directors**

**DEI Committee of Advocate Health Board**

**Health Equity Executive Council**  
(Led by Center for Health Equity)

**Subcommittee**

**Subcommittee**

**Subcommittee**

**Community**



## **Advocate Health Board of Directors:**

- Approves vision and sets the budget for the Health Equity Center
- Hold the Center accountable to outcomes



## **DEI Committee of Advocate Health Board:**

- Serves as a standing committee of the Advocate Health Board of Directors
- Provides oversight for the overall strategy and ensures the Center is functioning and advancing health equity as intended



## **Health Equity Executive Council:**

- Includes but not limited to: IT, Clinical, Medical group, Managed Care, Quality, Population Health, External Affairs, Academics/Research, Government Relations, Finance, Strategy, and Marketing and Communications
- The council will form subcommittees around core operations and focus areas to help inform and drive bodies of work of the center



## **Community:**

- The Center will...
- Communicate with and receive feedback from the community
  - Engage with the standing community-facing boards, councils and committees of the organization
  - Leverage national thought leaders from an advisory capacity.



## Our Four Health Equity Pillars

Access	Quality & Outcomes	Acute Social Needs	Social Determinants of Health
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### OUR PATHWAYS FOR IMPACT

<p>Community Clinics</p> <p>Virtual Care</p> <p>Mobile/ Home Health</p> <p>AH Teammate Onsite Care</p>	<p>System Goal Alignment</p> <p>Reduce Mortality</p> <p>Disparities Elimination</p>	<p>Social Care Connections</p> <p>Community Partners</p> <p>Community Programs</p>	<p>Employment</p> <p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>Food Security</p>
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OUR ASSETS AND LEVERS

Power
Platform
Resources

Address Systemic Racism

## OUR BOLD GOAL

By 2030, Atrium Health will **reduce the life expectancy gap** in our most underserved communities

# Why Us, Why Now?

Atrium Health Has Significant Social, Political & Economic Levers of Impact

## POWER

Weight we can leverage



Largest Employer



Health Care Services



Education



Anchor of Community

## PLATFORM

Organizational tools we have to influence in support of our priorities



Policy & Advocacy



Partnerships



Foundation/Grants



Research



Volunteerism

## RESOURCES

Organizational resources we have at our disposal to build outreach and impact



Sponsorships



Investments



Supplier Contracts



Data & Analytics



Teammate Giving

# Applying an Equity Framework to Patient Safety Events and Root Cause Analysis

**Aswita Tan-McGrory, MBA, MSPH**

Director, the Disparities Solutions Center

Director, Equity in Care Implementation

Administrative Director of Research, Dept of Medicine



Follow us on Twitter: @atanmcgrory @MGHdisparities



Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/disparitiessolutionscenter](http://www.facebook.com/disparitiessolutionscenter)



# Outline

New bias/discrimination pilot in patient safety event reporting system (RL solutions)

Current trends in the reports

Resources we can provide: Patient code of conduct policy, ending racism training and upstander training

# Outline

**Accountability** -New bias/discrimination pilot in patient safety event reporting system (RL solutions)

**Culture** –Current trends in the reports

**Transparency** – Annual Report on Equity in Healthcare Quality

## Safety Reporting System ?

### **Safety Reporting MGH now includes the RACISM/DISCRIMINATION ICON.**

This icon is intended for staff to submit concerns involving **racism/discrimination that impacts patient care**. Additionally, staff can note concerns related to racism/discrimination within any icon by responding to the question – “Is there a concern for racism or discrimination in this case?” with an opportunity to provide details if selected yes.

In addition to reporting racism/discrimination **towards** patients, please view the [Patient Code of Conduct](#) for further guidance on responding to and reporting discrimination from patients, family, visitors, or research participants toward others.

Please contact the Center for Quality & Safety at [mghsafetyreporting@partners.org](mailto:mghsafetyreporting@partners.org) for any questions.

**Thank you for your commitment to staff and patient safety!**

**MGH Safety Reporting Team  
MGH Center for Quality and Safety**

Close

## Find a form

Please use the search above to narrow down your event results by using keywords to describe the event that you're looking for.  
SCROLL DOWN TO SEE ALL ICONS

If you would like to practice entering a safety report, you can do so by clicking [here](#). Please note safety events submitted in the training site are not triaged/followed up.



Kind Words



Peer Support



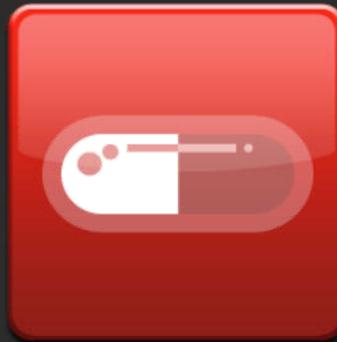
Racism/Discrimination



Head Strike (Employee only)



Employee General Incident



Adverse Drug  
Reaction (Patients Only)



Airway Management



Blood / Blood Product

▲ **General Event Information**

Event Classification

\* PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT ▼

Classification of Person

\* ▼

Injury Incurred

▼

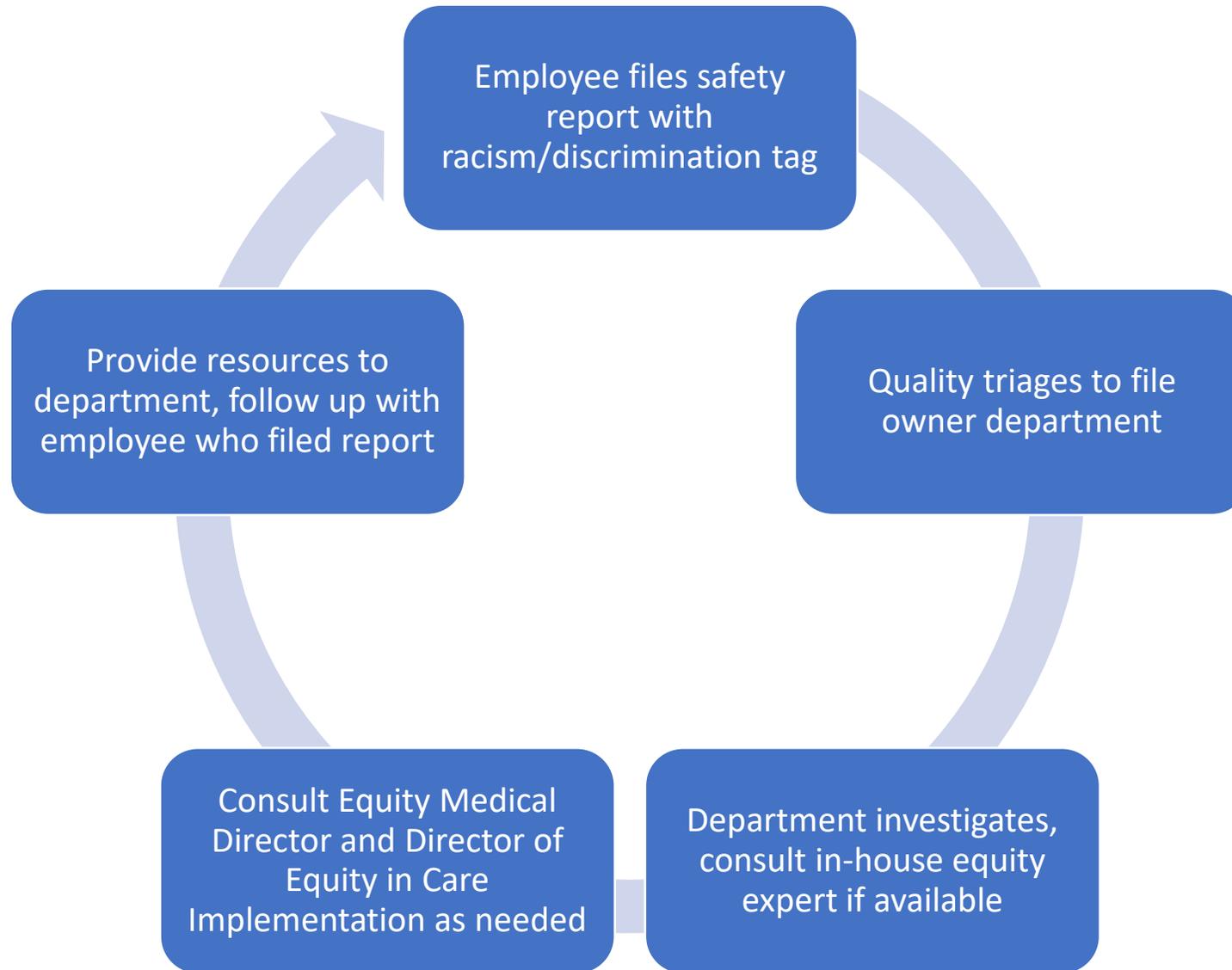
Did eCare/EPIC cause or contribute to this event?

▼

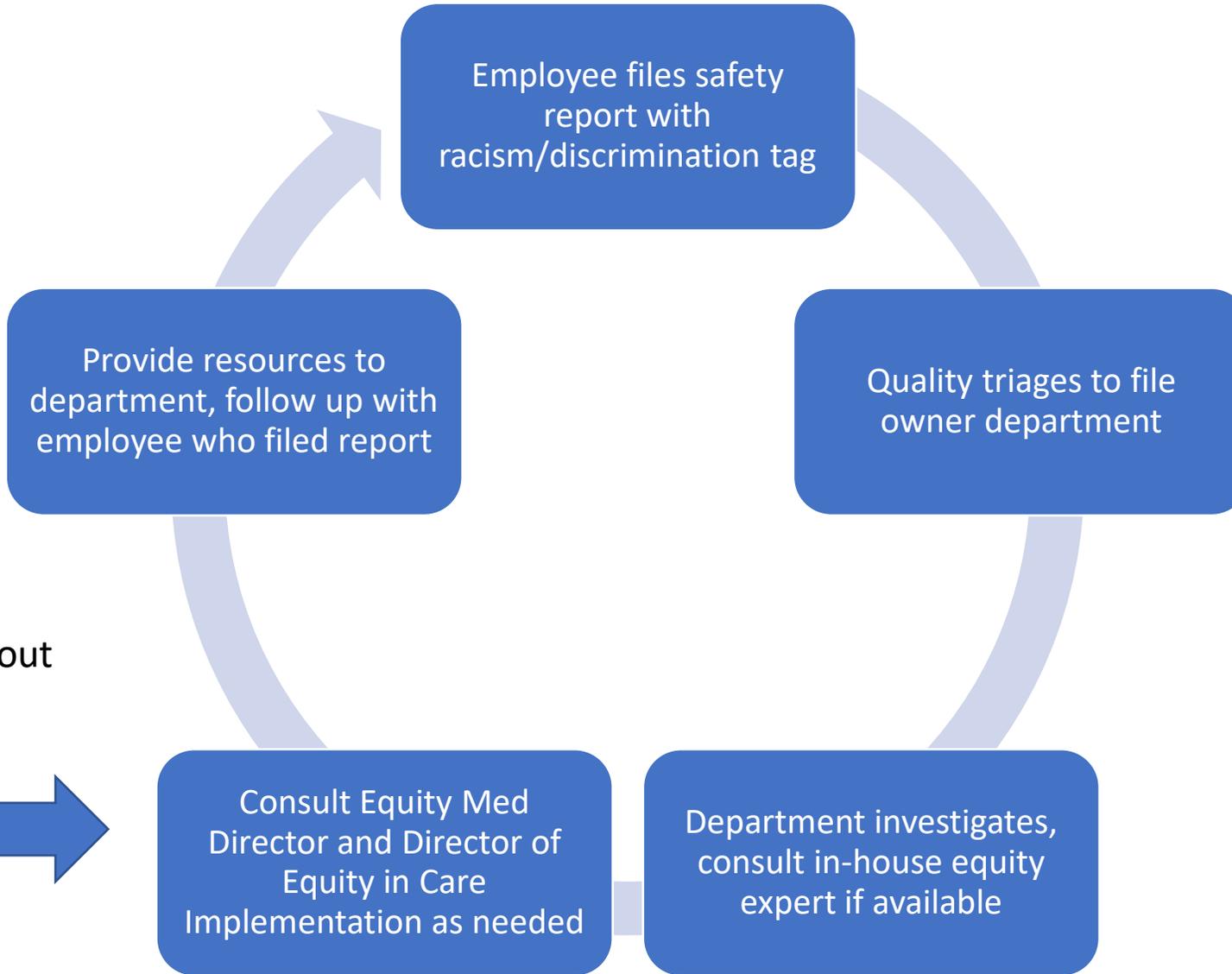
Is there a concern for racism or discrimination in this case?

▼





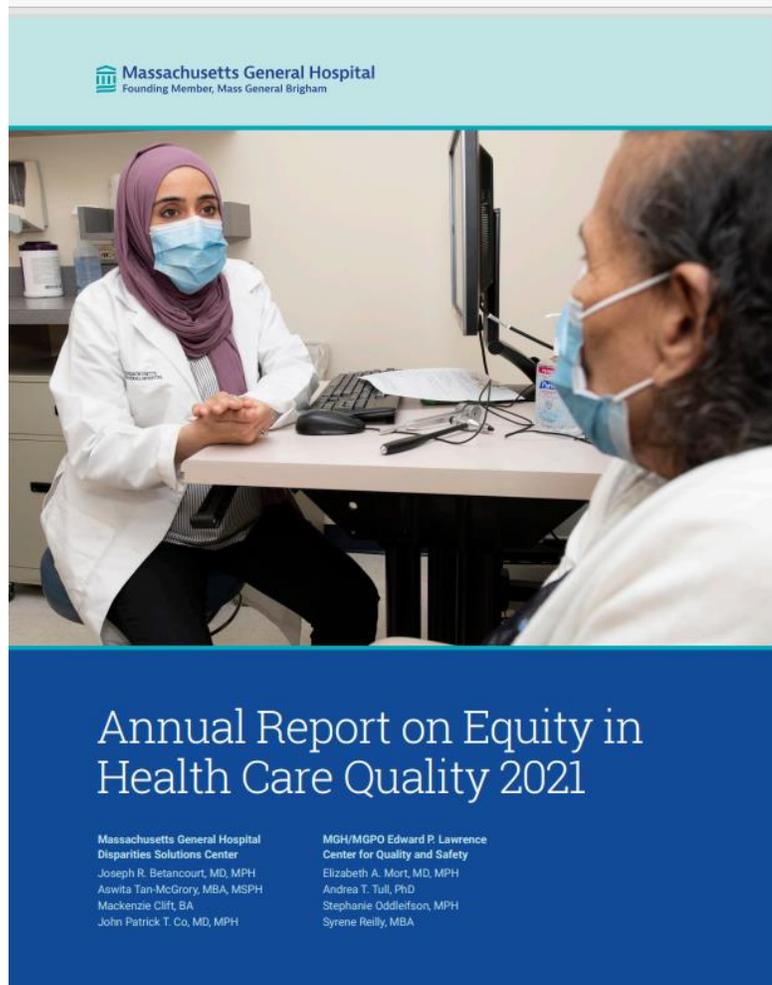
Employee or supervisor reaches out through informal channels



# How We Have Identified Disparities in the Past – Passive Use of Data



# Annual Report on Equity in Health Care Quality



- Demographic Profile of MGH patients
- Improving Patient Experience: Focus on Asian Patient Experience
- Serving Patients with Limited English Proficiency
- Obstetrics/Gynecology: Improvement in C-section Rates for Black Women
- Primary Care: Addressing Disparities in Preventive Health Screenings, Chronic Disease Management

# Patient Safety Reporting Allows for More Active View on What is Happening Right Now in the Hospital



# What Are We Seeing in the Reports?



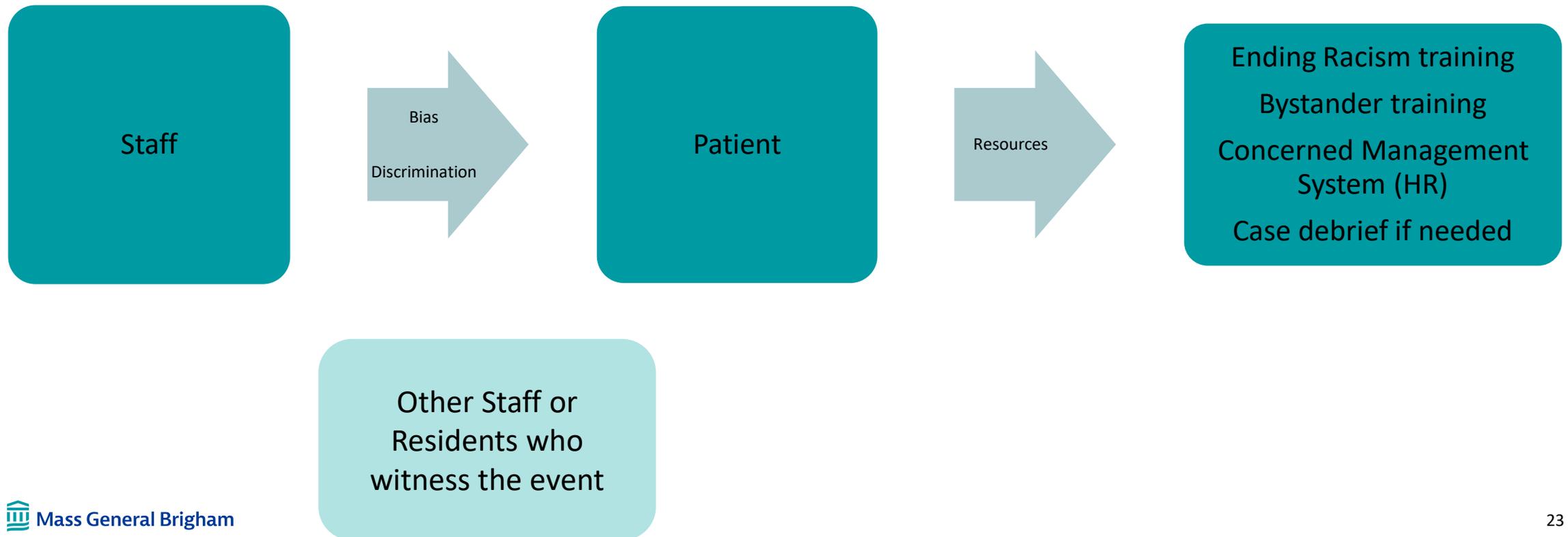
# There is bias/discrimination by a patient to staff



# There is bias/discrimination of staff to staff



# There is bias/discrimination of staff to patient



# Since the launch, most common themes:

Majority of the reports are on in-patient floors although there are some in the ambulatory space. Reports can be a mix of the previous three scenarios.

- Bias in pain management for patient who are POC (including dispensing medication in pharmacies)
- Bias in care for patients with limited English proficiency (LEP)
- Bias in pain management for patients with SUDs
- Bias/delay in providing treatment for POC
- Impact of these events on POC residents and the relationship with nursing staff
- Reluctance to report for fear of retaliation by floor staff
- We are monitoring for recurring trends



# Disclaimer

- **Case studies are intended to be used for educational purposes. These are adaptations of actual, real-life events.**
- **The patients and staff described in the case have been de-identified and anonymized.**

## Inside a case:

### ***Brief Summary:***

*An elder Cambodian speaking oncology patient was in the hospital for less than 48 hours. Their family members also needed assistance of an interpreter to communicate. The patient is decompensating and it was unclear if it was reversible or irreversible.*

### ***Resident concern :***

*Delay in rapid response due to bias for patients with LEP. Interventions that are frequently used to buy time until family can arrive, such as pressors, were contested for this patient for unclear reasons. Comments were made by nursing staff that further raised this concern.*

## Inside a case:

### ***Outcome of review:***

- *1:1 debrief with residents and the Director of Equity in Clinical Care Implementation*
- *Case review with multidisciplinary team including involvement with Director of Equity in Clinical Care Implementation*
- *Determination that there needs to be rapid response criteria that the entire floor/department/unit can agree on– with some leeway for varying clinical procedures*
- *Confirming that there are rapid response reminders throughout the floor*
- *Roll out of MGB wide Ending Racism Training and Upstander Training. Suggested resource is to hold debriefs with teams after the training with Director of Equity in Clinical Care Implementation as a resource.*

# Patient Safety & Patients with Limited English Proficiency

Adverse events affect patients with limited English Proficiency (LEP) **more frequently** and **severely** than English speaking patients

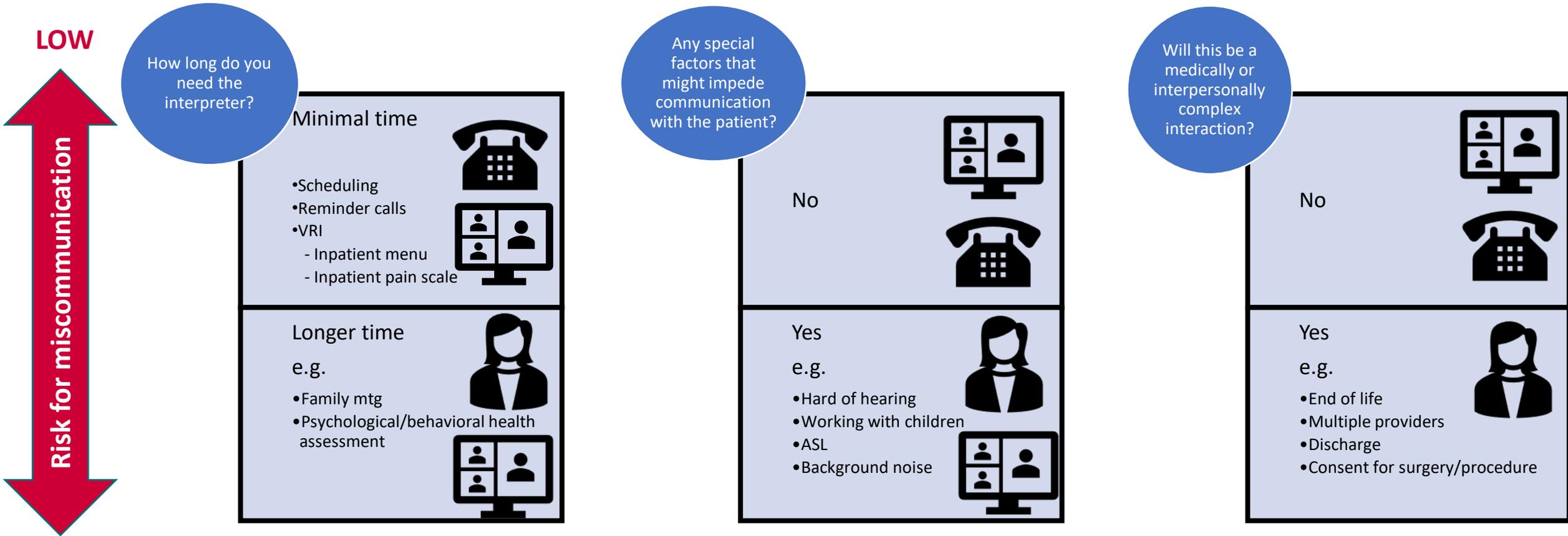
Patients with LEP **are more likely to experience medical errors** due to communication problems

Patients with LEP **are more likely to suffer physical harm** when errors occur (49.1% vs. 29.5%)\*

\*Divi C, Koss RG, Schmaltz SP, Loeb JM. Language proficiency and adverse events in US hospitals: a pilot study. Int J Qual Health Care. Apr 2007;19(2):60-67.

# Suggested Guidelines for Interpreter Modality

\*This is contingent on resources available which may vary by MGB site

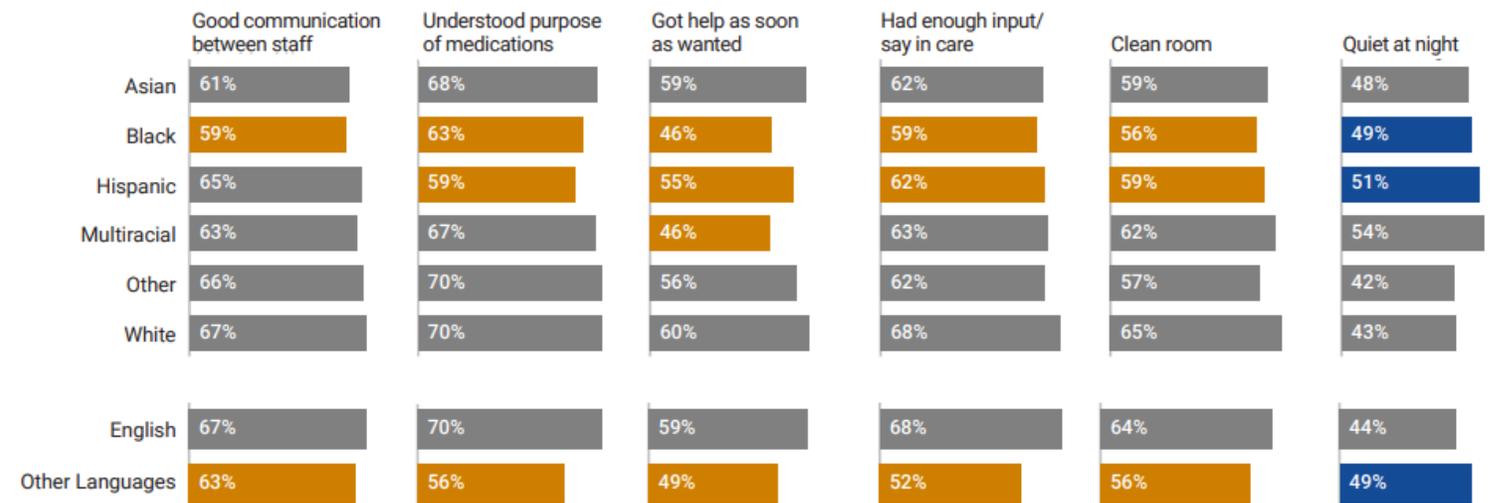
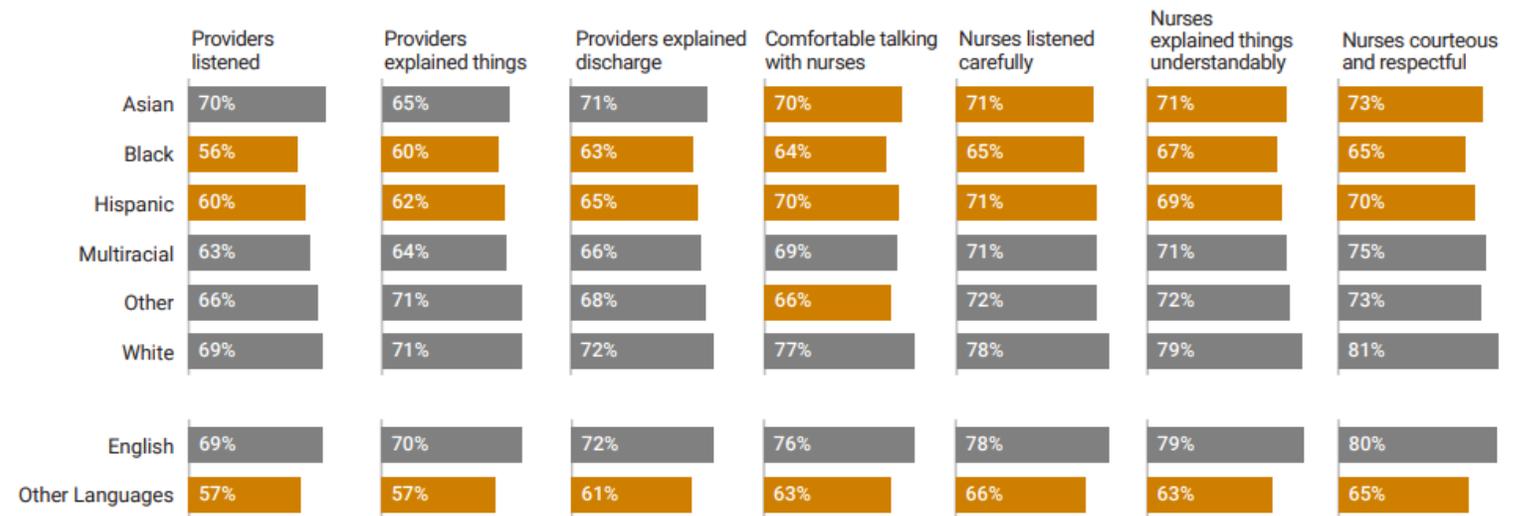


**Key:**

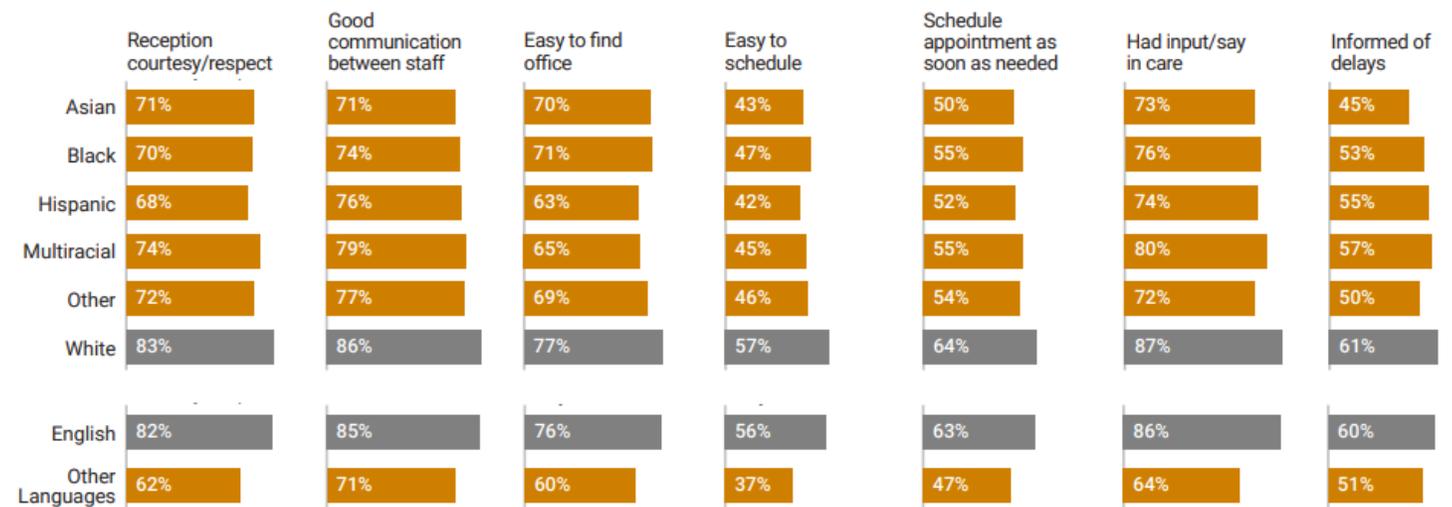
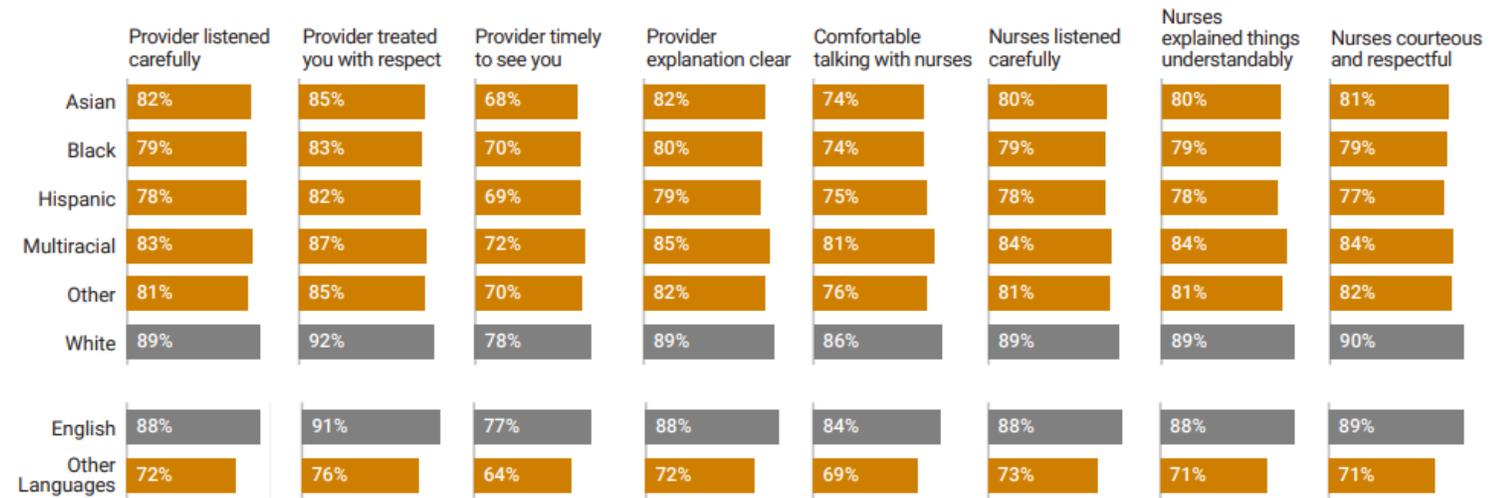
- Over-the-Phone Interpreting (OPI)
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- In Person with on-site staff interpreter

**Multiple risk factors increase benefit of an in-person interpreter**

## Patient Experience Rates, MGH Inpatient Survey by Race/Ethnicity and Language, 2021



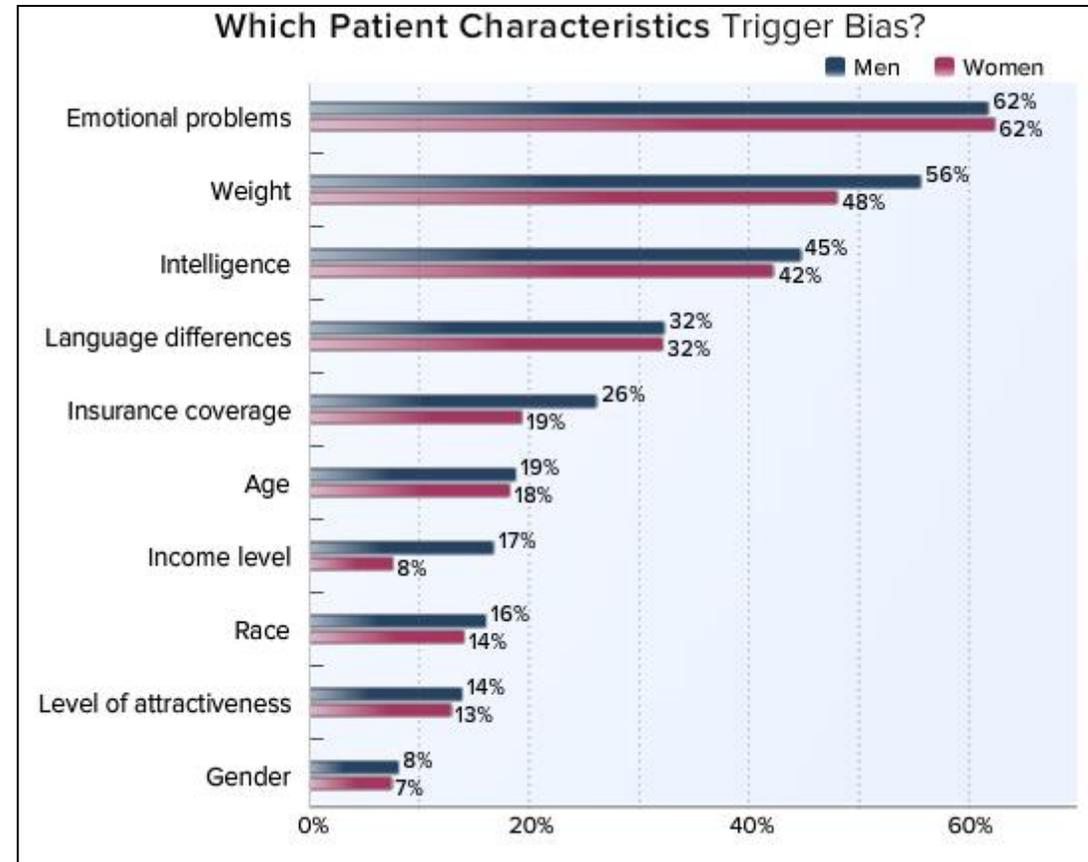
## Patient Experience Rates, MGH Ambulatory Practice Survey by Race/Ethnicity and Language, 2021



■ No different from comparison population

■ Significantly lower than comparison population

# Medscape Lifestyle Report 2016: Physician Bias



Source: Medscape Lifestyle Report 2016: Bias and Burnout. <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/lifestyle-2016-overview-6007335#6>

# What Resources Can we Provide



# *Patient / Family / Visitor Code of Conduct – Brief Summary*

## 1. Purpose

- Define appropriate patient, family, visitor, & research participant conduct.
- Provide a model for workforce members to respond to behavior that violates policy.

## 2. Procedure

- Response to disrespectful, discriminatory, hostile, or harassing behaviors from patients, etc.
- Response to discriminatory requests for specific type of clinician/workforce member based on their personal traits (race, etc.)
- Response when patient or research participant does not adhere to expectations set by staff and continues to violate the *Code*
- Response when family member or visitor does not adhere to expectations set by staff and continues to violate the *Code*
- [SAFER Model](#) for responding to incidents

# Rationale for Creating the Patient\* Code of Conduct

From **Mayo Clinic's 5-Step Policy for Responding to Bias Incidents**, Rahma M. Warsame, MD & Sharonne N. Hayes, MD

1. **Patient bias towards non-clinical and clinical staff is common.**
2. Silence or a “patient-first” approach may have detrimental effects on staff morale & well-being.
3. **Patients are protected from staff mistreatment by multiple policies, but staff rarely are.**
4. Lack of policy guidance leaves staff unsure of how to respond to incidents.
5. **Lack of organizational response erodes trust that reporting incidents will lead to positive change.**
6. Lack of organizational response to incidents creates legal vulnerabilities.

\*Here, “patient” is shorthand for patients, family, visitors, research participants

Warsame, R.M. & Hayes, S.N. (2019). Mayo Clinic's 5-step policy for responding to bias incidents. *AMA Journal of Ethics*. 21(6):E521-529. <https://www.doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2019.521>

# What is communicated to the public

Mass General Brigham is committed to providing high quality healthcare and building healthy and thriving communities. Everyone should expect a safe, caring, and inclusive environment in all our spaces. Our Patient Code of Conduct helps us to meet this goal. Words or actions that are disrespectful, racist, discriminatory, hostile, or harassing are not welcome.

Examples of these include:

1. Offensive comments about others' race, accent, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or other personal traits
2. Refusal to see a clinician or other staff member based on these personal traits
3. Physical or verbal threats and assaults
4. Sexual or vulgar words or actions
5. Disrupting another patient's care or experience

If we believe you have violated the Code with unwelcome words or actions, you will be given the chance to explain your point of view. We will always carefully consider your response before we make any decisions about future care at Mass General Brigham. Some violations of this Code may lead to patients being asked to make other plans for their care and future non-emergency care at Mass General Brigham may require review, though we expect this to be rare.

If you *witness or are the target of* any of these behaviors, please report it to a member of your care team.

Many healthcare systems across the country have similar codes of conduct.

[Patient Code of Conduct | Mass General Brigham](#)

# Upstander Training

# Ending Racism Training

# In Summary Consider....

- Community mistrust
- Language barriers and immigration issues
- Bias (who we screen for what, who we deem “non-compliant”, the idea that patient is only single diagnosis, are we doing SDoH screening, initiating care or rapid response)
- Having policies or check lists in place will help remove some of the subjectivity which is an opportunity for bias (e.g. initiating rapid response)
- Policies only work if there is a deliberate plan for implementation on floors, in practices, across divisions/departments (e.g. patient code of conduct)
- Answers to why someone reported bias/discrimination will not be in the medical chart
- Everything we see in the reports has evidence in the research literature
- While intent matters, also consider optics
- Importance of diverse team with lived experience

# Thank You

Aswita Tan-McGrory, MBA, MSPH  
Director, the Disparities Solutions Center  
Director, Equity in Care Implementation  
Administrative Director of Research, Dept. of Medicine  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
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**THE DISPARITIES  
SOLUTIONS CENTER**

*One Goal - High Quality Care for All*



## A Roadmap for DEI & Equity Transformation in a Pediatric Health System

**Rachel Thornton, MD, PhD**  
Vice President, Chief Health Equity Officer  
Equity Roadmap Clinical Owner



- Introductions
- Organizational Assessment & Lessons Learned
  - Strategic Insights & Partnerships
  - Evidence-Based Framework
- Equity Roadmap 2023
  - Diverse, Inclusive Work Environment
  - Equitable Healthcare Delivery System
- Open Discussion and Q&A

# Equity Roadmap | Leadership Team



**Rachel Thornton, MD, PhD**  
Vice President, Chief  
Health Equity Officer



**Theresa Proctor**  
Sr. Director, Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion

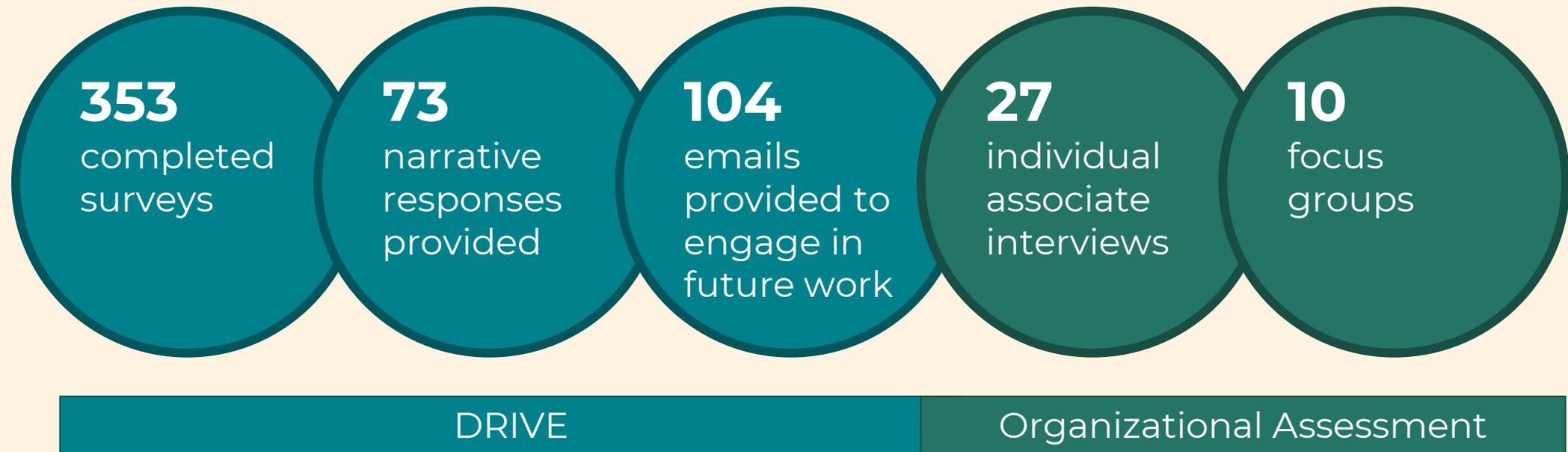


**Lavisha Pelaez**  
Sr. Manager,  
Health Equity



# Organizational Assessment & Lessons Learned

# Associate Surveys, Focus Groups & Interviews



- Focusing on associate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is critical. **We cannot get to health equity** for our patients and families **without workforce equity**.
- Long-term success in our organization's associate DEI and Health Equity efforts requires a **system-wide, cohesive** approach that **engages all associates** as partners in achieving results.
- **Accurate, accessible data** on our patients and associates is critical to progress and transformation. This will be a focus of our associate DEI and Health Equity efforts moving forward.

# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK

## FOR ADVANCING EQUITABLE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AT WORK

Roberts, 2021

**Catalyze change by raising consciousness**

**Mobilize change by clarifying our intentions and personal commitments**

**Sustain change through personal, organizational & societal transformation**



# Equity Roadmap 2023 Implementation

# Equity Roadmap | Key Objectives



## Associate Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Cultivate diverse leaders and create career pathways for diverse associates.



## Equity in Care Delivery

Identify and address disparities using a systematic approach to compare access, quality, and outcomes across populations and clinical areas.



## Accountability

Align Nemours' DEI vision with accountability & performance measures.

# Equity Roadmap Implementation 2023



Data  
Transparency



Long-Term  
Vision



Equip Leaders with  
Tools

***Workforce equity is foundational to advance & achieve health equity.***



- Develop Associate DEI dashboard that promotes transparency across the organization.
- Improve experience and engagement of diverse associates.
- Improve onboarding and retention of diverse associates.
- Advance organizational culture through education, policies, processes & resources.

*Workforce equity is foundational to advance and achieve health equity.*



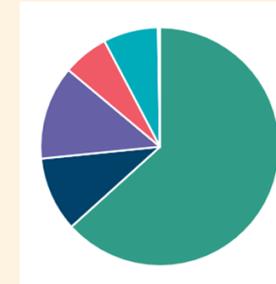
## Focus for Stratified Data

- Describe current state of our workforce
- Define organizational challenges & opportunities

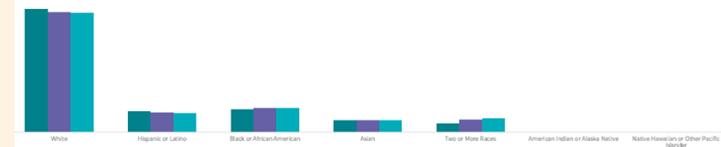
## Goalsetting & Transparency

- Improve workforce diversity
- Refine practices & processes
- Support leadership accountability
- Improve associate and patient health equity
- Mobilize and sustain inclusive, equitable culture at work

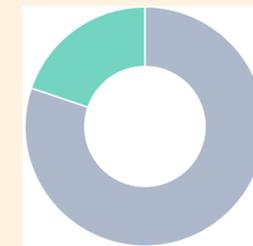
### Race & Ethnicity



- Black or African American
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or More Races



### Gender



Including Non-Binary

# Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Alignment

DESIaN

African  
Heritage  
Resource  
Group

Pride

Women@  
Work

Adelante

Health Care  
Alliance of  
Asian and Pacific  
Islanders



# Equity in Care Delivery

Transparency of baseline performance across strata.

Realignment of stratified quality, safety & patient experience metrics.

Implement data informed action plans, including improvement measurements.

Reduce health care disparities.



## Revised Race & Hispanic Ethnicity Categories:

- Hispanic or Latino
- White alone, non-Hispanic
- Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic
- Asian alone, non-Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, non-Hispanic
- Some Other Race alone, non-Hispanic
- Two or More Races, non-Hispanic
- Missing/Not Reported



## Revised Language Categories:

- English
- Spanish
- Haitian Creole
- Arabic
- Portuguese
- Other Spoken Language
- Non-Spoken Language
- Missing/Not Reported



# Equity in Care Delivery – Alignment & Shared Imperatives

## Regulatory Requirements

**Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal.16.01.01** Improving health care equity for the hospital's patients is a quality and safety priority.

Digital Sign – Coming Soon!

Effective July 1  
Joint Commission  
Announces New  
Requirements to  
Reduce Health  
Care Disparities

Learn more.



## Culture of Safety

GALLUP

Nemours 2023 Culture of Safety Survey

Have you been involved in an actual patient or employee harm event or near miss event?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is yes, do you believe that language, race or ethnicity or other diversity characteristics played a role in the event?

- Yes
- No

BACK

NEXT

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Help



# DISCUSSION



# Q&A



# APPENDIX



## **EXTERNAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Roles of the Advisory Council**

- Advise the Nemours Children's Health Vice President, Chief Health Equity Officer regarding development and implementation of NCH Equity Roadmap through participation in EAC quarterly meetings and other communication with a focus on:
  - Industry best practices
  - Practical lessons learned
  - Navigating context
  - Organizational change management
- **Overarching Goal:** Engage subject matter experts leading and supporting successful Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Health Equity strategies within the healthcare industry to:
  - Improve effectiveness of NCH Equity Roadmap strategy implementation, leveraging EAC experience in navigating organizational and contextual political realities
  - Inform NCH approach to Executive Readiness assessment to support progress of actionable DEI and Health Equity priorities aligned with values

### **STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT**

- Quarterly Town Hall
- IDEA Steering Committee
- IDEA Clinical Steering Committee
- MarComm Partnership



## Dr. Laura Morgan Roberts (CEO and Founder)

- Professor, Darden School of Business
- Leading DEI thought-leader
- Experienced practitioner & Consultant
- Expert strengths-based development
  - ✓ Strengths
  - ✓ Values
  - ✓ Differences



## Dr. Brook Dennard Rosser

- DEI Strategist
- Experienced Management consultant
- Expert intersectionality at work
- Other DEI focus areas:
  - ✓ Change management
  - ✓ Organizational behavior
  - ✓ Leadership development

# ACCELERATING HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

TOGETHER ON THE QUEST FOR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

MAY 16-18, 2023 | MINNEAPOLIS

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@ communityhlth  
@ IFD\_AHA



- AHA Community Health Improvement
- Institute for Diversity and Health Equity