

Local HIEs as a Mechanism to Address Health Disparities

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Center on Health Disparities, Adventist HealthCare

Ambulatory Care EH^R Support (ACES)

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Agenda

- ✧ ACES: A Local Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- ✧ A Tool for Assessing Health Disparities
- ✧ Real Life Application: Hospital Readmissions

ACES: A Local HIE

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- ✧ Electronic Health Record (EHR)
 - ✧ Patient records documented and maintained electronically
- ✧ Health Information Exchange (HIE)
 - ✧ A network that connects disparate EHRs
 - ✧ Ensures that patient records are accessible where the patient is



ACES: A Local HIE

- ✧ Ambulatory Care EHR Support is a two-part program
 - ✧ Supports affiliated physician practices to adopt EHRs
 - ✧ Building the Adventist HealthCare HIE



A Tool For Assessing Health Disparities

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- ✧ Through the EHR program:
 - ✧ Physician practices will be trained to document patient data on race, ethnicity, and language
 - ✧ Physicians will be informed on the importance of accurate data collection



A Tool For Assessing Health Disparities



- ✧ Through the HIE, data can be collected from:
 - ✧ Affiliated physicians' EHRs
 - ✧ Adventist HealthCare's inpatient EHRs
- ✧ All HIE data can be analyzed

A Tool For Assessing Health Disparities

✧ *HIE data will reveal where health disparities exist so we can solve them*



Real Life Application: Hospital Readmissions

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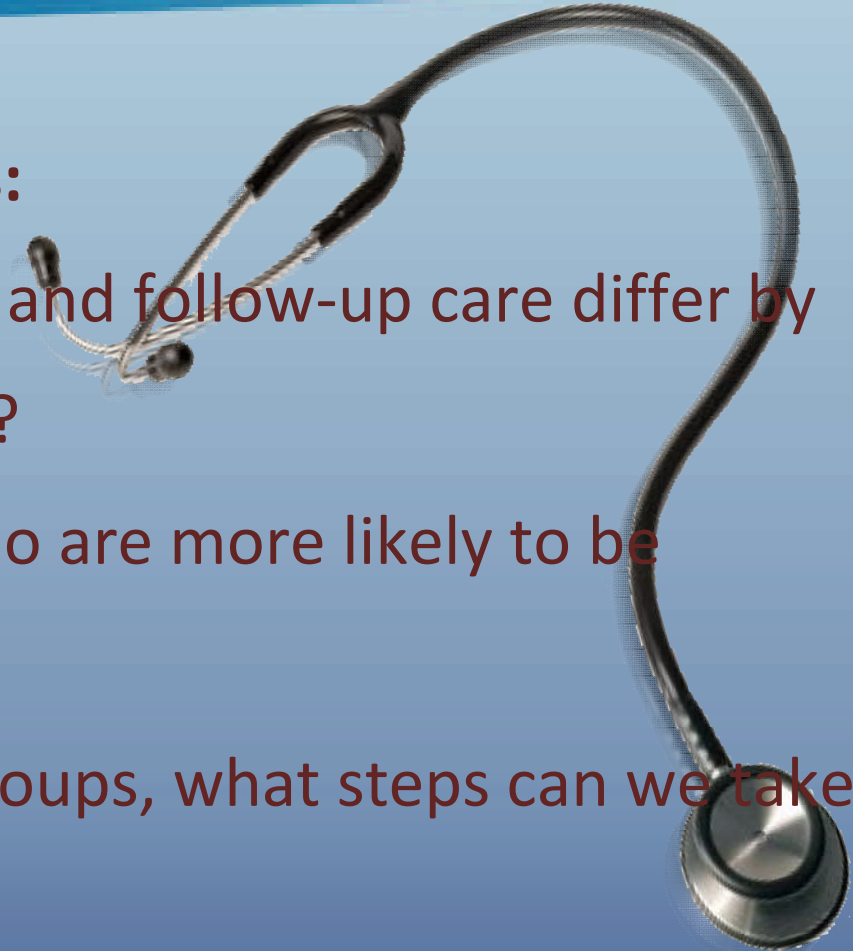
- ✧ Hospital Readmissions: When a patient is admitted to the hospital within one month of discharge
- ✧ **1 in 5** Medicare patients are readmitted within 30 days costing **\$17 billion** per year (Maryland: \$657 million)
- ✧ CMS may cut hospital payments up to **3%**



Real Life Application: Hospital Readmissions

Questions ACES can address:

- ✧ How do readmission rates and follow-up care differ by race, ethnicity and language?
- ✧ Can we identify groups who are more likely to be readmitted?
- ✧ Once we identify at-risk groups, what steps can we take to prevent readmissions?



Real Life Application: Hospital Readmissions

**Sophisticated readmissions analytics will
inform strategies to address health disparities**

Real Life Application: Hospital Readmissions

- ✧ ACES can lower readmission rates by improving communication:
 - ✧ Improve rates of follow-up care
 - ✧ Half of readmitted patients had no follow-up with a doctor
 - ✧ Improve communication between inpatient and outpatient settings
 - ✧ ADT
 - ✧ CCD

Conclusion

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- ✧ As a local, hospital-led HIE, ACES has a unique opportunity to address health disparities
- ✧ ACES can be used to address health disparities
 - ✧ Collect data in EHRs
 - ✧ Analyze HIE data from practices and hospital
 - ✧ Identify health disparities in the community

