

Proposed New and Revised Changes Related to Reducing Health Care Disparities Hospital Accreditation Program

LD.04.03.08

1 Reducing the health care disparities of its patients is a quality and safety priority for the
2 hospital.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for LD.04.03.08

- 3 1. The hospital designates an individual(s) who leads the development,
4 implementation, and monitoring of activities to reduce health care disparities
5 within the hospital's patient population.
6 Note: Addressing health care disparities may be an individual's primary job
7 responsibility or may be in addition to other duties.
- 8 2. The hospital assesses the social needs and social determinants of health of its
9 patients and then provides information about community resources and support
10 services when necessary.
11 Note 1: Examples of social needs and social determinants of health may include the
12 following:
13 - Employment status
14 - Housing insecurity
15 - Food insecurity
16 - Access to transportation
17 - Education and literacy
18 - Difficulty paying for prescriptions or medical bills
19 Note 2: Social needs and social determinants of health may be identified for a
20 representative sample of patients or for the hospital's entire patient population.
- 21 3. The hospital evaluates whether health care disparities exist by stratifying key
22 quality and safety data using the sociodemographic characteristics, social needs,
23 or social determinants of health of its patients.
24 Note: The quality and safety data used for stratification analyses will vary
25 depending on the health care setting. Hospitals may focus on areas with known
26 disparities identified in the scientific literature (for example, organ
27 transplantation, maternal care, diabetes management) or select measures that
28 affect all patients (for example, experience of care and communication).
- 29 4. The hospital develops a written action plan that describes how it will address at
30 least one of the health care disparities identified in its patient population.
- 31 5. The hospital monitors the effectiveness of its activities to reduce health care
32 disparities in its patient population.
- 33 6. At least annually, the hospital informs key stakeholders, including leaders,
34 licensed practitioners, and staff, about its progress to reduce identified health
35 care disparities.