

RESEARCH PRIORITIES TO ADVANCE DISABILITY EQUITY IN HEALTHCARE



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WHAT WE LEARNED

Stakeholders (n=55) identified 14 research priorities to advance disability equity in healthcare.

Highest ranked priorities:

1. Collecting patients' disability status
2. Providing timely disability accommodations
3. Training for staff and providers

Stakeholders identified primary outcomes of importance and current challenges in conducting disability research in healthcare

BACKGROUND

Persons with disabilities (PWD) experiences significant disparities in the receipt of equitable healthcare. In order to address these disparities, rigorously designed, patient-centered outcomes research is needed.

OBJECTIVES

We engaged a broad range of stakeholders to identify:

1. Critical **research priorities** to improve healthcare for PWD.
2. **Outcomes** that should be prioritized in disability equity research.
3. **Barriers** that prohibit the execution of research for PWD in healthcare settings.

METHODS

- We conducted key-informant interviews with stakeholders (n=55)
- The results were presented to the study's Advisory Committee who, using nominal group technique, ranked the order of priorities according to: feasibility, urgency, and importance.

RESULTS

RESEARCH PRIORITIES RANKED

	Importance	Urgency	Feasibility	
Documenting Disability Status in the Health Record	High	High	High	Highest
Implementation of Disability Accommodations	High	High	High	
Disability Competency Education for Providers and Staff	High	High	High	
Intersectionality of Disability and Other Demographics and Social Determinants of Health	High	High	Medium	Moderate
Current Status of Accessibility in the US Health Care System	High	High	High	
Effectiveness of Accommodations in Improving Outcomes	High	Medium	High	
Accessibility of Telehealth, Patient Portals and other Health Care Technology	Medium	High	High	
Improved and Increased Use of Big Data	High	High	High	
Inclusion of Disability Competency Training in Medical Education	High	Medium	High	Lowest
Engaging and Supporting Family Members, Caregivers, and Support Persons in the Health Care Setting	High	High	Medium	
Cost Effectiveness of Health Care Accommodations	High	Medium	High	
Educating Persons with Disabilities about their Rights to Disability Accommodations	High	High	Medium	
Effectively Communicating Health Information to Patients with Cognitive or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	High	High	High	
Effects of Gaps in Preventative Health Care During COVID-19	High	High	High	

Outcomes

- Clinical outcomes
- Patient satisfaction
- Safety
- Cost
- Staff and provider-reported outcomes

Barriers

- Lack of funding
- Health system challenges; i.e. lack of leadership support
- Population level challenges; i.e. lack of data

Learn more about the Disability Equity Collaborative and read the White Paper at DisabilityEquityCollaborative.org

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