The ABC Roundtable to Improve Health Care Access for Minority and High-Risk Populations

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ABC
Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.
Saving the Heats and Minds of a Diverst America

NATIONAL
Minority Quality Forum
April 24, 2017
Purpose of Roundtable Initiative

The issue:
While advanced therapies offer new treatment options for patients with or at risk for cardiovascular diseases, access remains a challenge, particularly for underserved minority patient populations.

Critical concerns include:
- Deceleration in rate of decline of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), Heart Disease (HD), and stroke mortality
- Mortality among Blacks from heart disease, stroke, and all CVD continues to be higher than for Whites
- Limited access to new therapies that address Cardiovascular (CV) conditions effects mortality
Deceleration in Rate of Mortality Decline

**Key Points**

**Question** Are there changes in national trends in recent years in mortality rates due CVD, HD, stroke, and cancer?

**Findings** The rate of decline in all CVD, HD, and stroke mortality decelerated substantially after 2011. Deceleration of the decline in all CVD mortality rates occurred in males, females, and all race/ethnicity groups, and the gap between HD and cancer mortality persisted.

**Meaning** If this deceleration trend continues, strategic goals for lowering the burden of CVD set by the American Heart Association and the Million Hearts Initiative may not be reached.

**Brief Report**

August 2016

Recent Trends in Cardiovascular Mortality in the United States and Public Health Goals

Sidney, S. et al.

CVD Disparities

Mortality rates: Higher in Non-Hispanic Blacks vs. Non-Hispanic Whites


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### Limiting Access to Therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapy Type</th>
<th>Cardiologist Perceptions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Novel oral anticoagulants (NOACs)</strong></td>
<td>N=145</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <em>afib</em></td>
<td><strong>Always</strong> 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Often</strong> 36%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sometimes</strong> 17%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Never, Rarely</strong> 3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor (ARNIs)</strong></td>
<td>N=143</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <em>heart failure</em></td>
<td><strong>Always</strong> 51%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Often</strong> 34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sometimes</strong> 18%</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Never, Rarely</strong> 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitor (PCSK9is)</strong></td>
<td>N=137</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <em>hyperlipidemia</em></td>
<td><strong>Always</strong> 64%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Often</strong> 39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sometimes</strong> 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Never, Rarely</strong> 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>N/A; Not sure</strong> 2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cardiologists indicate how frequently these prescriptions are delayed or denied. 

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Objective and Goals of Roundtable Initiative

**Overall program objective**

Convene CV opinion leaders and advocacy experts from different areas to address issues related to patient access.

**Program goals**

Develop and disseminate recommendations that identify:

1. Significant access barriers
2. Potential high-impact solutions

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Roundtable Attendees

Over 15 participants representing:¹

- government
- advocacy organizations
- physicians
- health plans
- pharmacists
- nurses
- academia
- industry
- ABC board members

Roundtable Initiative: Top Access Barriers Identified

Roundtable participants identified the top barriers to access as follows:

- Cost of drugs to patients
- Suboptimal access to primary care
- Low referrals to specialists
- Socio-economic determinants of health
- Refusal to accept certain insurance
- Limited access to affordable generics
- Lack of culturally competent providers

Roundtable Initiative: Solutions Identified

- Standardize prior authorization process
- Advocate policy changes for acceptance of Medicare & Medicaid
- Promulgate pharmacy programs improving access
- Expand community health worker concept
- Advance telemedicine & telehealth practices

Formal support for these solutions was obtained from many Roundtable participants

Progressing the Summary Recommendations

Roundtable participants reconvened – 2 solutions selected for focus in 2017:

Promulgate pharmacy programs improving patient access

“Lack of medications is the #1 cause of hospitalizations.”

Standardize prior authorization process

“Combined with the shortage of physicians and nurses, increased practice time is a major issue.”

“Patients are not getting the care they need.”

Call to Action

ABC members and general health care community urged to amplify messaging and content by:

• Sharing **Summary Recommendations** within your organization and professional networks

• Discussing importance of document

• Aligning with, and contributing to, identified solutions
Thank you