

## **NYC Coalition to End Racism in Clinical Algorithms (CERCA): *Expanding, Evolving, Transforming* – Summary**

**What:** CERCA continues to build on the past two years of commitments among its members, which included: de-implementing race adjustment in one of three priority clinical algorithms in seven out of nine participating health systems; successfully advocating for updated recommendations by the American Thoracic Society (ATS) around de-implementing race-based reference equations in spirometry; and starting the conversation around patient engagement strategies related to the harm that has been caused due to race-based algorithms. Our [inaugural report](#) captured the progress of the initiative since its formation in the Fall of 2021. The report highlighted how CERCA operationalizes collaboration between public health and healthcare around health equity issues, which is a pillar of the NYC Health Department’s Chief Medical Officer strategic plan.

This iteration of CERCA will expand on the 3 original focus areas (eGFR, VBAC, and PFT) as well as a new 4<sup>th</sup> focus area -- race-based prescribing of anti-hypertensive medications (HTN). The expanded and new subgroups are described below:

- **Transplantation Equity:** The eGFR subcommittee will transition efforts to focus on access to kidney transplantation for Black New Yorkers and identifying and addressing barriers toward tracking referrals at different stages of kidney function.
- **VBAC/TOLAC Shared Decision-Making:** The VBAC subcommittee will transition efforts to focus on Black and Latina/x patient engagement strategies through options for shared decision making around VBAC and Trial of Labor After C-section by using video, pamphlets, infographics, and other methods of communication. These communication efforts will aim to mitigate the harm that has been done by misusing race in the decision-making process for birth plans.
- **PFT:** The PFT subcommittee will continue its work on de-implementing race-based reference equations in spirometry testing – either by incorporating new hardware, software or other processes required for successful de-implementation.
- **Race-Based Prescribing of Anti-Hypertensive Medications:** This subcommittee will center developing race conscious approaches to prescribing blood pressure medication in contrast to current JNC8 and ACC guidelines through a workplan and/or evaluation plan based on the current hypertension-related racial equity activities and infrastructure of member.

**Who:** The **NYC Health Department** will continue to operate and convene CERCA members as well as:

- Provide information and resources to support institutional change.
- Connect coalition members to experts and provide technical assistance.
- Facilitate development of a new set of tailored objectives building on past activities for each of the abovementioned subcommittees for the next two years of the initiative.

**Coalition Members** will be responsible for developing and achieving deliverables that contribute to their respective subcommittee's objectives. Specifically, members will:

- Participate in developing and achieving deliverables based on the subcommittee’s specific objectives (eGFR, PFT, VBAC and or HTN)
- Formalize their achievable, and attainable deliverables for their respective institution or organization in a pledge.

- Confirm CERCA representatives who will participate in meetings and serve as points of contacts on the pledge forms.
- Participate in bimonthly meetings, monitor progress, and troubleshoot barriers throughout the process.

**Community-based Organizations and Patient Advocates** will be engaged to participated in this iteration of CERCA to ensure patient and community voice is being centered and incorporated into subcommittee discussion. Because this iteration of CERCA will focus more on the downstream effects of de-implementing race-based algorithms, patient advocacy and CBO participation and voice in CERCA's activities will be critical in ensuring equitable impact on the communities that have been most harmed by race-based algorithms.

**When and Where:** The next iteration of the coalition will launch on **May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. CERCA meetings will primarily be held on Zoom throughout the next two years, with at least one in person meeting per year.

- Meetings 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 – Will focus on presentations from subject matter experts and breakout groups Meetings 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 – Will focus on breakout groups discussion and activities.
- Months where the CERCA coalition meetings are not being held, facilitators will convene with the internal CERCA staff to reflect on previous meetings, strategize best practices based on subcommittee, and tailor future meetings to fit the needs of our members.

Meeting dates and a detailed timeline are forthcoming. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our CERCA Program Coordinator, Naomi Legros - [nlegros@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nlegros@health.nyc.gov).

We are excited and honored to collaborate with you, either again or for the first time, in this important and transformative work!