



November 20, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) about your interest in a review of the use of race-based clinical algorithms in standard medical practice. We appreciate your leadership and attention to this critical issue.

AHRQ's mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, high quality, more accessible, equitable and affordable, and to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and other partners to make sure the evidence is understood and used. To address the "equitable" component of our mission, Congress established an Office of Priority Populations within the Agency to conduct and support research and evaluations, and support demonstration projects with respect to healthcare for priority populations.

Further, AHRQ's mission is also supported by the Agency's Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program, which conducts systematic reviews of scientific evidence to help inform healthcare policies, programs, research agendas, and practice. As noted in the Agency's mission statement, an important goal of AHRQ's is to ensure that evidence generated by programs like the EPC program is understood and used.

A systematic evidence review, by design, is the most appropriate and scientific way to inform decisions about best healthcare practices. Thus, to answer the questions that you raised regarding race-based clinical algorithms, AHRQ has already begun work to conduct an evidence review.

In addition to using rigorous methods for systematic review, the EPC program will engage relevant stakeholders and the public to help shape and guide the study which will ensure that the review addresses the most relevant and important questions. After finalizing the questions for review, the EPC program will work with experts in the field to develop a comprehensive protocol to guide the systematic review process.

The EPC program values transparency and not only conducts peer review of draft reports, but also posts draft reports for public comment before finalizing the report. The draft of the review will be posted for public comment in 2021. The findings from this systematic review of the evidence can be used by decision makers to inform their objective to ensure that medical care is equitable for all Americans.

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
Page 2

Thank you for your engagement on this important issue. We are sending an identical letter to your co-signers. If you or your staff have additional questions or concerns, please contact Boyce Ginieczki, at [Boyce.Ginieczki@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:Boyce.Ginieczki@ahrq.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gopal Khanna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gopal Khanna, M.B.A.  
Director