



No. 34: Can value-based health care support health equity?

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Value-based health care must focus not only on delivering value at individual level, but also at a societal level, or equity gaps will be further exacerbated. Efforts to improve health equity must be rewarded, and adequate arrangements must be in place to ensure that the concept of universal health remains central to Australia's health system.

This will require deliberate strategies to protect the interests of those people who are most vulnerable, particularly those who are negatively impacted by social determinants. It will also require effort to ensure public value is delivered through a sustainable and affordable health system.

Recommendations

- Governments and public-funded health organisations should establish cross-sector partnerships with health, community and social services as they implement value-based health care initiatives.
- Planning for and developing appropriate responses to equity issues should be specifically designed into funding arrangements to ensure cost transparency backed up by tangible actions to reduce health inequities and improve health equity.
- To achieve greater public value for health investment, commissioning decisions should be informed by data that identifies health disparities.
- To achieve greater public value for health investment, Commonwealth, state and territory health departments, Primary Health Networks, and health service providers must make more deliberate efforts to address health disparities through their commissioning decisions.
- Data linkage and analysis of community, health and social services data should be prioritised in order to drive better health outcomes for individuals and the community, and to achieve greater personal and public value.
- As new technologies and treatments are funded, consideration must be given to ensuring value both at an individual level and at a public level, including how equity will be promoted.