Weight Health: Best practices at every size

"...identify health care services for which there are substantial variation in practice patterns or high utilization trends in Washington state, without producing better care outcomes for patients, that are indicators of poor quality and potential waste in the health care system."

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### PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Excess body fat, often measured by a person’s weight or commonly by body mass index (i.e., BMI from weight over height), is determined by a complex interplay of genetic, psychosocial, social, and environmental factors. Individuals with a higher weight often experience stigma from the health care system and increased health disparities from not receiving indicated, evidence-based care or delaying care (e.g., cancer, diabetes, osteoarthritis, disordered eating). Approximately 74% of adult Americans meet current definitions for overweight (i.e., BMI over 25) and obesity (i.e., BMI over 30). Newer drugs used for weight loss (i.e., GLP-1) can negatively impact health and may not be prescribed using a shared decision-making process.

### DOES THE TOPIC HAVE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- ☒ VARIATION IN CARE
- ☒ HIGH COST AND POOR OUTCOMES
- ☒ SAFETY CONCERNS
- ☒ EQUITY CONCERNS

### PROPOSED SCOPE:

- Addressing weight stigma through health care professional interactions and organization polices
- Considerations when managing health for an individual who has excess body fat
- Promotion of individuals accessing high-quality and evidence-based care through interventions and insurance coverage
- Public health interventions to address social drivers of poor nutrition

### EVIDENCE-BASED IMPACT STRATEGY:

- Education on Weight Stigma for health care professionals
- Interventions: physical exercise, mental health and behavioral strategies, pharmacology, diet change and caloric restriction and surgery
  - Address Social Drivers such as food insecurity and built environment

### AVAILABLE DATA:

- Black patients are less likely to be diagnosed with obesity than non-Hispanic White patients
- Women with BMI>55 kg/m2 had a significantly lower rate (68%) of Pap tests compared to others (86%)
- Pharmacologic treatment of excess weight is generally underutilized, with only 1.3% of eligible patients having prescriptions for AOMs across several large health care organizations throughout the United States

### POTENTIAL PARTNERS:

MultiCare, Hospital Systems, Health Plans

### HOW MAY A BREE REPORT ON THIS TOPIC SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF WASHINGTONIANS:

Bree report can provide necessary guidance on how to support an individual with excess weight attaining their optimal health status, increase access to evidence-based services, work towards addressing social drivers that increase one’s risk for obesity, and decrease the $173 billion a year cost associated with the obesity on the healthcare system.