



Intersectionality In Clinical Trials

Intersectional Barriers To Clinical Trial Participation¹

Diverse groups may be underrepresented due to limited access pathways, barriers, lack of information, racism (both historic and ongoing), and discrimination.

Intersectionality allows healthcare professionals to be more patient-centric by viewing patients from more than one perspective.



Intersectionality focuses on the relationships, interactions and interdependencies between factors to determine how health is shaped. Intersectionality in health care focuses on the ways multiple factors of social inequality overlap and compound.¹



Patients Are Located At The Intersection Of Various Identities¹



Genetics, sex, and ancestry



Gender, race, sexual orientation, and education



Dis/ability and comorbidities

IDENTITY

CHALLENGES



- Mother
- Immigrant
- Teacher

- Childcare
- Insurance coverage
- Work flexibility



- LGBTQIA
- Disabled
- Unemployed

- Cultural stigma
- Travel distance
- Financial burden



- Elderly
- Non-English speaking
- Pre-existing conditions

- Caregiving schedule
- Language barrier
- Comorbidities



- Black
- Essential worker
- Uninsured

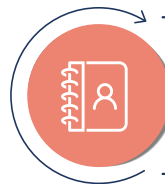
- Cultural mistrust
- Work flexibility
- Insurance coverage

Benefits Of Embracing Intersectionality For Clinical Trials¹

- 1 Alleviate patient barriers and burdens
- 2 Improve recruitment and retention
- 3 Better representative data and analysis
- 4 Inform & enhance trial design
- 5 Elevate safety and efficacy of drug development

How Can Sites Apply Intersectionality To Better Address And Serve Diverse Groups?¹

IDENTIFY MISSING POPULATIONS



Review and determine whether your site's recruitment plans and outreach activities include an all-inclusive diverse population. Ensure that recruitment strategies include diverse patient preferences and communication pathways.

INCORPORATE INTERSECTIONALITY THEORY

Include intersectionality theory into diversity training for investigators and site staff. Enable staff to understand their own intersecting identities and how they can improve the site's readiness to serve patients.



CONNECT & CREATE A DIRECTORY



Connect with local communities, organizations, and advocacy groups, providing resources and a referral network for patients belonging to different communities. Consider compiling a local directory where diverse patient populations can get targeted support and/or learn about your trials.

EMPATHETIC LISTENING

Shape intentional questions and space for empathetic inquiry that encourages patients to openly share their diverse perspectives and experiences during visits or check-ins. Seek to understand patients from more than one perspective by centering their voices in engagements.



ADDRESS BARRIERS



Implement site support or specific flexibilities to overcome intersectional barriers that diverse patients might face during trial participation. This could be benefits such as flexible hours, telehealth check-ins, travel or meal reimbursements, childcare options or reimbursements, onsite or virtual interpreters, provisioned devices, etc.

References

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