The Relationship between Improving Quality and Reducing Health Care Disparities in Health Care: Does a Rising Tide Lift All Boats?

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Both improving quality and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health care are important and related goals facing health care systems in the United States. This presentation will discuss equity as a key dimension of quality of care, present evidence about whether general quality improvement initiatives can reduce racial and ethnic health care disparities, and identify recent trends in the quality of care and racial/ethnic disparities in US acute care hospitals and private managed care plans.

Amal Trivedi, MD, MPH is Associate Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice at Brown University and Core Investigator at the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The primary goal of his research is to evaluate the consequences (both intended and unintended) of payment, financing and other health system interventions on the quality and outcomes of health care, particularly for vulnerable populations. Dr Trivedi directs Brown University’s PhD program in health services research and is a practicing general internist.