

## **W21**

### **Health inequalities related to socio-economic status: how primary care may reduce them**

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Primary care may contribute to increase health inequalities related to socio-economic status (SES) when the 'inverse care law' operates, ie when the availability of good primary care varies inversely to the need for it in the population served. At the opposite, primary may contribute to reduce these inequalities by delivering equitable care.

Learning goals:

- 1) Clarify the concepts: health inequalities, health inequalities related to SES, equity of health care...
- 2) Understand how primary care can increase or reduce these inequalities.
- 3) Identify patient SES informations important to register in the patient medical record, and understand the contribution of these informations to guide the consultation.
- 4) Understand how to improve the equity of primary care.

#### **Methods:**

- 1) Presentation of the concepts and mechanisms connected with health inequalities related to SES.
- 2) Small groups of 5-6 participants will work on the detailed narrative of a low SES patient with negative outcomes: a. what could have been done, when, and by whom, to modify the outcomes;  
b. what skills primary care providers, and particularly GPs, would have needed to act in this way;  
c. what modifications of the practice organisation would have been necessary.
- 3) The groups will present a summary of their reflection.
- 4) An EQuIP expert will propose a synthesis.

Expected impact on the participants. To motivate the participants to:

- 1) work on this topic ;
- 2) adapt care to specific social groups needs
- 3) register systematically a limited number of SES standardized data on the patients' records, in a time efficient way
- 4) introduce stratification by social groups when measuring quality indicators
- 5) implement plan-do-check-act projects to improve equity and to demonstrate the benefit for the patients and the practice.