

WtT 4

Anti-racist quality improvement in maternal care: Adapting the Model for Understanding Success in Quality (MUSIQ) to embed anti-racist principles to evaluate maternal and neonatal care quality improvement projects in England

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Introduction

There is a four-fold difference in maternal mortality amongst women with Black heritage compared to White women in England. However, few large-scale initiatives address racial inequalities in maternal care. The Race and Health Observatory (RHO) is leading work to test a quality improvement approach embedding anti-racism principles. Since January 2024, 10 NHS services across England have been developing initiatives to improve care for women from ethnic minority backgrounds with the ambition to scale successful initiatives. To evaluate these initiatives and provide evidence to support scale-up, we are using a collaborative process to adapt MUSIQ to take an anti-racism lens.

The Session

The session invites delegates to consider anti-racism within healthcare, implementation research and practice, and provide their expertise to help adapt MUSIQ to embed anti-racism principles within an evaluative framework. The session will be facilitated by project partner organisations (RHO, IHI, Race Equality Foundation and two of England's Health Innovation Networks).

We will take the following approach to the session:

1. RHO and IHI will briefly describe their program testing an anti-racism QI methodology and developing initiatives to address racial inequalities in maternal care. We will give examples of initiatives being developed by maternity services across England for scale-up.
2. The Health Innovation Networks will describe (a) use of an adapted MUSIQ within the evaluation, (b) the co-production process with lived experience partners and other stakeholders, adapting MUSIQ to embed anti-racism principles, and (c) findings from a program participant survey using the adapted tool.
3. An interactive facilitated session will ask delegates to use their expertise to interrogate and build on the co-production process to adapting MUSIQ as an evaluative tool with an anti-racism lens for maternity and neonatal care by:
 - Exploring what else should be considered to ensure anti-racist principles are embedded in MUSIQ.
 - Discussing the potential, and evaluation, of an anti-racism adapted MUSIQ in settings beyond maternal care.
 - Considering how we can ensure an adapted MUSIQ is used in practice (e.g. drawing on experience and evidence of other frameworks/tools).

Parts 1 and 2 will provide key context for part 3, which will form the main component of the session.

Highlights

- The crux of our session will involve facilitated, interactive discussion to co-create recommendations for the ongoing refinement, testing and real-world use of the anti-racism MUSIQ.
- Our session will engage delegates in a debate about anti-racist approaches in implementation and improvement science and practice.