

Journal Club: Accessibility of Medical Equipment

Katherine Goss, MPH Candidate, Jeremy French-Lawyer, MPH, CHES, & Michael Iorger, PhD, MPH, CSCS, ACE-FNS

Goal: To introduce disability issues to medical students in the context of critical exploration of research practices.

Estimated Time: 40 minutes

Recommended Group Size: <12 medical students

Outcome Objectives:

1. Students will be able to explain the benefits of conducting qualitative research to understand an issue like medical equipment accessibility.
2. Students will be able to describe common barriers to physical accessibility in the clinical setting.
3. Students will be able to identify potential barriers to accessibility for patients with disability in the clinical settings where they work.

Story MF, Schwier E, Kailes JI. Perspectives of patients with disabilities on the accessibility of medical equipment: examination tables, imaging equipment, medical chairs, and weight scales. *Disabil Health J.* 2009;2(4):169-179.e1. doi:10.1016/j.dhjo.2009.05.003.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the benefit of conducting qualitative research with this population? What can this type of research help us to understand?
2. What is the benefit of using "snowball" sampling for this population? What are the downsides of employing this technique?
3. Has reading the views of patients with disability on accessibility of medical equipment altered your understanding of physical access? How?
4. What are different disease processes or impairments that cause people to use wheelchair, walker or cane?
5. Why is proper positioning important during an examination? If proper positioning is not obtained, what potential risks are patients subjected to?
6. What are some key takeaways from this article?