



June 17, 2020

Institute for Clinical and Economic Review  
Two Liberty Square  
Boston, MA 02109

RE: ICER's Statement on Racism in America

Dear Dr. Pearson,

The past weeks have been a trying time for the United States. Racism, health disparities, and inequities that impact the Black and Brown community have been boldly highlighted as a result of the COVID19 crisis and tragic murders of Mr. George Floyd, Mr. Ahmaud Arbery, and Ms. Breonna Taylor.

We received [ICER's Weekly View](#), on June 5, 2020, that stated, "At ICER, we hear the clarion call ringing out - to ensure that race is no longer a determining factors in life expectancy, that medical research dollars flow to combat conditions that impact communities of color, and that we achieve health equity by addressing the negative impact of social determinants of health. ICER Pledges to be part of this change."

After reading this statement, we felt it important to understand the following:

- How does ICER pledge to be part of the change?
- What are your guidelines and plans to ensure that ICER, in fact, is not part of the systems that perpetuate racism and increase barriers for communities of color to access treatments and therapies?
- What are your plans, at the institutional level, to ensure that your reviews are culturally competent and consider social determinants of health into the economic framework and base case analysis?
- How will ICER ensure that the people and organizations who serve Black and Brown communities, with whom you are engaging with during ICER reviews, do not suffer financially and are compensated appropriately for their time and expertise?

As leading advocates in the sickle cell disease (SCD) space, which disproportionately impacts Black and Brown people, and a space that has been plagued by racism and disparities, our experience working with ICER highlighted the aforementioned deficiencies. In fact, seeing a statement from ICER pledging to be part of the change is concerning when just three months ago, an ICER review added a burden to the SCD community.

We hope that your institution and many more who are influential in the healthcare space, use this time to reflect on their processes and find strategies to equitably support the Black and Brown community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Valentine, MRes  
President and Co-Founder