

Understanding Health Disparities and Health Equity

Health disparities are factors outside a person's control that can impact their access to quality, affordable care. The goal of ensuring everyone receives the same level of care, no matter their situation is called **health equity**.

Examples of Health Disparities	Financial Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of access to health insurance. ▪ Communication problems related to language or culture. ▪ Disabilities and mental health issues. ▪ Financial issues and affordability of care. ▪ Race, gender identity, sexual orientation or religion. ▪ Geographic location—like living in a rural area that has limited access to medical centers. ▪ Lack of education or health literacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PEN's Financial Resource Guide ▪ American Cancer Society: Cancer.org ▪ CancerCare: CancerCare.org ▪ The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society: LLS.org ▪ Ask your doctor about patient assistance programs for your treatment. ▪ Talk to a social worker about your options. Many medical centers may reduce or forgive bills for patients who can't afford them.

Resources for Accessing CLL Care

- If English is not a person's preferred language, ask your clinic for a translator. Medical centers often have trained interpreters who can join appointments to assist with communication.
- Transportation and lodging assistance programs are available through organizations like the [American Cancer Society](#) and [Joe's House](#).
- [Triage Cancer](#) and the [Patient Advocate Foundation](#) offer legal resources to help patients understand and assert their workplace rights.
- If a person feels they are experiencing discrimination when seeking care, they can reach out to the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) (ACLU) for help.

[Collaborate CLL Series](#)

What You Should Know About CLL Clinical Trials

Which Treatment is Right for YOUR CLL?

How Is CLL Treated?

Which Treatment is Right for YOUR CLL?

Understanding YOUR CLL Diagnosis

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