

UCI Health

2023–2025

UCI Medical Center Implementation Strategy



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Implementation Strategy

Introduction

UCI Medical Center (UCIMC) is an integral component of UCI Health. UCIMC is a 417-bed acute care hospital providing tertiary and quaternary care, ambulatory and specialty medical clinics, behavioral health and rehabilitation in Orange County, California. In 2022, UCIMC conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to comply with federal regulations guiding tax-exempt hospitals. The CHNA and Implementation Strategy are posted on the hospital website and can be accessed at <http://www.ucihealth.org/community-health>. Public comment on the CHNA and Implementation Strategy are encouraged and community input is used to inform and influence this work.

The CHNA incorporated demographic and health data for Orange County, California. Significant health needs were identified from issues supported by primary and secondary data sources gathered for the CHNA. The needs were indicated by secondary data sources and stakeholder interviews. Each health need was confirmed by more than one indicator or data source (i.e., the health need was suggested by more than one source of secondary or primary data). In addition, the health needs were based on the size of the problem (relative portion of population afflicted by the problem); or the seriousness of the problem (impact at individual, family, and community levels). To determine the size or seriousness of a problem, the health needs identified in the secondary data were measured against benchmark data, specifically state rates or Healthy People 2030 objectives. Indicators related to the needs that performed poorly against these benchmarks were considered to have met the size or seriousness criteria.

The following significant health needs were identified:

- Access to health care
- Chronic diseases (Alzheimer's disease, asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, liver, stroke)
- COVID-19
- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Overweight and obesity
- Preventive practices (vaccines and screenings)
- Substance use

Priority Health Needs

Community stakeholder interviews were used to gather input and prioritize the significant health needs. The following criteria were used to prioritize the health needs:

- The perceived severity of a health issue or health factor as it affects the health and lives of those in the community;
- The level of importance the hospital should place on addressing the issue.

Input from community stakeholders resulted in the following prioritization of the significant needs:

1. Mental health
2. Access to health care
3. Chronic disease
4. Housing and homelessness
5. Preventive practices
6. Substance use
7. COVID-19
8. Overweight and obesity

Addressing the Health Needs

UCIMC will address the following health needs through a commitment of community benefit programs and charitable resources.

- Access to health care and preventive health care
- Cancer
- Mental health
- Overweight and obesity (and related chronic diseases)

Goals have been established that indicate the anticipated impact on these health needs as a result of the resources the hospital will commit to meeting the health needs. Strategies to address the priority health needs are identified and impact measures will be tracked.

Access to Health Care and Preventive Health Care

Goal

Increase access to health care for the medically underserved and improve community health through preventive practices.

Strategies

UCIMC will commit the following resources to address this health need:

- Provide financial assistance through both free and discounted care for health care services, consistent with our financial assistance policy.
- Operate the UCI Family Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center, with locations in Santa Ana and Anaheim.
- Explore new health care access points for the underserved.
- Provide primary care services, health screenings, vaccines/immunizations, and COVID-19 testing and vaccines for the uninsured and underinsured.
- Communicate to county residents how to access health care coverage options and primary care services.

Impact

The anticipated impact of these actions will be to:

- Increase availability and access to primary care and preventive care services.
- Provide financial assistance to qualified hospital and clinic patients.
- Reduce the percentage of residents who delay obtaining needed medical care.
- Increase individuals' compliance with preventive care recommendations.

Collaboration

To address access to health care and preventive health care practices, UCIMC plans to collaborate with:

- CalOptima
- Orange County Health Care Agency
- Orange County's Healthier Together
- UCI Family Health Center

Cancer

Goal

Reduce impact of cancer on patient health and increase focus on prevention, treatment, research protocols and comprehensive support.

Strategies

UCIMC will commit the following programs and resources to address this health need:

- Increase cancer prevention and early detection for lung, breast, cervical and colorectal cancers.
- Promote quality cancer care from diagnosis through treatment with an emphasis on advanced cancers in the catchment area.
- Increase access to cancer clinical trials throughout Orange County.
- Promote healthy cancer survivorship and co-survivorship.

Impact

The anticipated impact of these actions will be to:

- Increase the identification and treatment of cancer.
- Increase public awareness of cancer prevention and early detection.
- Increase individuals' knowledge through relationship-based cancer care and treatment recommendations.

Collaboration

To address cancer prevention and treatment, UCIMC plans to collaborate with:

- American Cancer Society
- Orange County Cancer Coalition (OC3)
- The Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers
- UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
- UCI Family Health Center

Mental Health

Goal

Increase access to mental health care resources and services.

Strategies

UCIMC will commit the following programs and resources to address this health need:

- Provide mental health care outreach and treatment.
- Provide community education on mental health topics.
- Communicate to service area residents how to access health care coverage options and mental health care services.
- Participate in the Orange County mental health collaborative, Be Well OC.

Impact

The anticipated impact of these actions will be to:

- Increase awareness and treatment of mental health issues.
- Increase availability and access to mental health care services.
- Reduce the percentage of residents who delay obtaining needed mental health care.

Collaboration

To address this health need, UCIMC plans to collaborate with:

- Be Well OC
- CalOptima
- Orange County Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Division
- Orange County's Healthier Together
- UCI Family Health Center

Overweight and Obesity and Related Chronic Diseases

Goal

Reduce overweight and obesity and its impact on chronic diseases.

Strategies

UCIMC will commit the following programs and resources to address this health need:

- Provide obesity prevention education, screening and treatment.
- Provide support groups to assist those with chronic diseases and their families.
- The UCI Family Health Center (FQHC) will manage the care of low-income patients with hypertension, diabetes and/or those who are overweight/obese.
- Distribute fresh produce through the UCI Family Health Center mobile food pantry.

Impact

The anticipated impact of these actions will be to:

- Increase the identification and treatment of overweight and obesity.
- Increase public awareness of chronic disease prevention.
- Increase individuals' compliance with preventive care recommendations.
- Support individuals' abilities to access healthy food and prepare healthy meals.

Collaboration

To address overweight and obesity, UCIMC plans to collaborate with:

- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
- CalOptima
- Orange County Health Care Agency
- Orange County's Healthier Together
- UCI Family Health Center

Evaluation of Impact

UCIMC will monitor and evaluate the programs and activities outlined above. Our reporting process includes the collection and documentation of tracking measures, such as the number of people reached/served, implementation of disease management measures, and collaborative efforts to address health needs. An evaluation of the impact of the hospital's actions to address these selected health needs will be reported in the next scheduled CHNA.

Needs the Hospital will Not Address

Taking existing hospital and community resources into consideration, UCIMC will not directly address: housing and homelessness and substance use. Since UCIMC cannot address all the health needs present in the community, it will concentrate on those health needs that it can most effectively address given its areas of focus and expertise.