

# **Writers' Memo: "A Review of Interventions to Address Language Barriers in the Emergency Department"**

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We completed this project as part of a literature review initiative by the Equal Access Clinic Network (EACN) Research Department. We (Maria and Joel) were both born in Cuba and arrived in the United States when we were around 15 years of age. Since then, we have experienced language barriers ourselves and in our families. As future physicians, we have been involved in clinical activities where we have seen the effects of language barriers in patients as well. This led us to join EACN Research to improve the quality and access to care of this patient population. Originally, we composed a literature review that focused on the effect of language barriers on outcomes for patients in the Emergency Department and the effectiveness of interventions to address this issue. We will only be including the latter section of the project. We started the literature searches in October 2020 and finished the writing process in January 2021. After this, we each led a team of undergraduate researchers in conducting systematic reviews regarding other healthcare topics. These projects are still in progress. We hope that this paper will reach Emergency Department physicians and administrators, as well as other students interested in the topic. Our review aims to assess existing solutions to language barriers within the Emergency Department and highlight the interventions that have been shown to have the best outcomes. Thus, we would provide our target audience with the most updated insights into the best practices regarding this subject.