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Pharma and Payers Tackle COVID-19 with Increased Investment in Social Determinants of Health Revealed in New eHealth Initiative Report

Washington, DC – August 7, 2020 – Today, eHealth Initiative Foundation (eHI) released *Insights from Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Payers: Addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and Advancing Health Equity*. The paper shares examples of collaborative initiatives currently deployed by pharmaceutical manufacturers and payers to address SDOH during COVID-19.

“The pandemic has revealed dramatic disparities in testing, care, treatment and health outcomes across minority populations,” said Jen Covich Bordenick, Chief Executive Officer of eHI. “It was encouraging to learn about the different partnerships that pharmaceutical manufacturers and payers are leveraging to tackle these issues.”

The report was developed by convening pharmaceutical manufacturers, health plans, community-based SDOH programs, patient advocacy organizations, and other health care experts. Merck and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. participated in and provided financial support for development of the report. Topics addressed in the report include:

- **Using COVID-19 as a catalyst for change**
- **The role of data in advancing health equity**
- **A shared SDOH framework**
- **Tools for putting SDOH into action**
- **Using data to understand health while addressing social risk**
- **Appropriate use of SDOH**
- **SDOH and health literacy**
- **Positive benefits of SDOH**

This report serves as a follow-up to another released by eHI in 2019, *Ethical Principles for the Appropriate Use of Social Determinants of Health*. eHI leads several educational initiatives aimed at identifying best practices in health care across the nation. Additional resources around addressing SDOH during COVID-19 are available in the eHealth Initiative’s [Resource Center](#).

A full copy of the report can be [downloaded here](#).

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About eHealth Initiative & Foundation

eHealth Initiative (eHI) convenes executives from every stakeholder group in healthcare to discuss, identify and share best practices to transform the delivery of healthcare using technology and innovation. eHI, along with its coalition of members, focuses on education, research, and advocacy to promote the use and sharing of data to improve health care. Our vision is to harmonize new technology and care models in a way that improves population health and consumer experiences. eHI has become a go-to resource for the industry through its eHealth Resource Center. For more information, visit ehidc.org.