

HEALTH ALERT!

Clinical Trials And Minorities

(NAPSA)—The most effective way to find treatments for diseases that predominantly affect ethnic and racial minorities, say the experts, is to include more minority patients in clinical trials.

Lack of access might be a factor, say experts at The Endocrine Society, an organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Or perhaps doctors are not asking enough minority patients to participate in such trials.



Minorities need better representation in clinical trials, especially those that focus on diseases that primarily affect them.

A paper by the Society asks the pharmaceutical industry, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other research organizations to help expand minority participation in clinical research. In fact, the paper asks for legislation requiring FDA trials to include minorities and women to qualify for approval. Tax incentives could make this easier to accomplish.

The paper is published at www.endo-society.org/publicpolicy/health_disparities.