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How Do Cultural Similarities with Providers and Caregivers Shape the Management of Chronic Conditions?

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Previous research has outlined evident disparities in the development of chronic health conditions among African Americans compared to other groups, with African American men disproportionately affected by almost every disorder investigated. Examinations into chronic health conditions revealed that social determinants of health stemming from structural racism combined with cultural elements, compounded by the fact that African American men are much less likely to have access to health insurance, are highly related to the health burdens of African American men. Yet, much literature exploring the experiences, expectations, and effects of chronic health conditions rarely focuses specifically on African American men. The purpose of the current research is to expand the literature by exploring the themes and response patterns from various focus groups associated with health management related to low-income African American men with chronic health conditions. In particular, the current project seeks to answer the following question; How do cultural similarities with providers and caregivers shape the way we manage chronic conditions? Thematic analysis will be used to identify themes that are linked to the data with an inductive approach. Focusing on how cultural similarities shape our healthcare behavior, three sets of transcribed focus group interviews will be analyzed, including 1) Low-income African American men, 2) Caregivers/Family of low-income African American men, and 3) Healthcare Providers. It is expected that clear themes will emerge across all three focus groups, suggesting that cultural similarities between patients, caregivers, and providers will result in positively adaptive health-related perspectives.