

Federal Interagency Workgroup on Improving Diagnostic Safety and Quality in Health Care

November Meeting Summary

Workgroup Goal: Established in response to [Senate Report 115-150](#). The Senate Committee on Appropriations requested “that AHRQ convene a cross agency working group that will propose a strategy to enhance scientific research to improve diagnosis in healthcare, as outlined in the 2015 NASEM report.”


Workgroup Summary: The latest workgroup meeting occurred virtually on November 15, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and was attended by representatives from the following agencies:

AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
IHS	Indian Health Service
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NIH/NIBIB	National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
NIH/NLM	National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine
NIH/NCATS	National Institutes of Health/National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
NIH/CC	National Institutes of Health/Clinical Center
NIH/NCI	National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute
ONC	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
OASH	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs

Each agency provided an update on publicly available programs, initiatives, contracts, and grants related to improving diagnostic safety in healthcare. A select sample is provided below:


AHRQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic Safety Capacity Building Contract (press release forthcoming) • Patient Safety Learning Laboratories (6 awarded) • Grants To Enable Diagnostic Excellence (4 awarded)
CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review linking laboratory error to patient outcomes • Updated Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments Regulations • Advancing Laboratory Diagnostic Stewardship Meeting (12/2019)



NIH/NCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilevel Interventions in Cancer Care Delivery: Followup to Abnormal Screening Tests (R01) • Using Information Technology To Support Systematic Screening and Treatment of Depression in Oncology Practices (R01 and R21): https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/pa-18-493.html and https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-18-492.html
VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a research informed tool, the Revised Safer Dx Instrument , to help identify/measure diagnostic errors through case reviews • VA Office of Performance Measurement collaborating with researchers on implementing a national initiative that uses a metric for timeliness of test results communication

During the meeting, several key focus areas emerged related to improving diagnostic safety and quality, including:

1. Communication initiatives since communication is a key component of many diagnostic issues;
2. Clinical decision support and ways to present information to improve diagnostic accuracy;
3. Advanced technology, including machine learning, modeling, and simulations;
4. Improvements to interoperability of data;
5. Patient navigation through the care continuum; and
6. Performance measurement.

The group discussed opportunities to work synergistically across agencies as well as gather input from non-Federal stakeholders interested in diagnosis. It was noted that workgroup discussions were consistent with the recommendations outlined in the Institute of Medicine’s report [Improving Diagnosis in Health Care](#) . That report details the necessity of a coordinated research agenda around diagnosis and the importance of a close relationship between research and care delivery settings.

Next Steps: Establish Interagency Workgroup meetings on a regular schedule in 2020.