Clinician's Quick-Start Guide to Calibrate Dx

A Resource To Improve Diagnostic Decisions

What Is Calibrate Dx?

Calibrate Dx is a self-evaluation tool for clinicians to improve their diagnostic decision making. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality contracted with researchers at Baylor College of Medicine and the MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety to develop this resource in collaboration with experts in clinical diagnosis and diagnostic safety.

> "I think it's a way to empower clinicians to study their own cases in a safe way and learn from their own cases."
>
> *Calibrate Dx field test user, hospital medicine physician*

Why Use Calibrate Dx?

Clinicians seldom get feedback on their diagnostic decision making. This resource provides structured exercises and tools to help you learn from reviewing your own clinical practice.

Who Should Use This Resource?

Anyone whose scope of practice includes medical diagnosis can use Calibrate Dx. Practicing clinicians who don't get regular feedback on their diagnoses can especially benefit from using Calibrate Dx.

How Do I Use Calibrate Dx?

The Calibrate Dx **User Guide** leads clinicians through four steps to improve diagnosis:

1. **Choose a focus for self-evaluation and improvement.** Choose a clinical topic or condition you encounter often. Identify processes (e.g., appropriate use of diagnostic tests) and outcomes (e.g., diagnostic accuracy, timeliness, equity) that are important to you for your self-evaluation.

2. **Choose and review a sample of cases.** Identify three to five recent cases relevant to the area you'd like to focus on. Using the **Diagnostic Calibration Debrief Tool** and other tools in the Calibrate Dx User Guide, review each case for insights and learning opportunities. When feasible, debrief with a trusted peer.

3. **Plan and apply** improvements to your clinical skills and practice (or to your team or system) based on what you learned from your self-evaluation.

4. **Reflect** on this exercise over time and follow up periodically to reinforce and continue your learning.

How Much Time Do I Need?

Calibrate Dx has been pilot tested with full-time clinicians who work in inpatient and outpatient settings. The first time you use Calibrate Dx, you will likely need 3-4 hours to read the **User Guide** and complete all the steps. Once you have learned to use Calibrate Dx, you can expect to complete the self-evaluation exercises in half that time or less.

> "As clinicians, we are very much creatures of habit in our day to day, especially in the outpatient setting, seeing multiple patients, trying to move through the flow of the day. And so I think that's helpful as a clinician to be able to take pause and do the self-reflection and say, is there something different that I need to do in this approach?"
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> *Calibrate Dx field test user, family medicine physician*