Federal Interagency Workgroup: Improving Diagnostic Safety and Quality in Healthcare

Workgroup Goal: Established by [Senate Report 115-150](#). The Senate Committee on Appropriations requested "AHRQ to 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 March 11, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and was attended by representatives from the following agencies:

AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
DoD	Department of Defense
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
IHS	Indian Health Service
NIH/NLM	National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine
NIH/NCI/ HSIRB	National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute/Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch
ONC	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
VA	Veterans Affairs

The aims of this meeting were to: (1) Engage in a followup discussion with representatives from the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine; (2) provide agency updates related to diagnosis improvement research; and (3) hear updates from the Subcommittee on Using HIT to Improve Diagnosis.

Agency	Update

AHRQ	• Diagnostic Safety Building Contract
	   o Released a new [TeamSTEPPS course](#) focused on improving diagnosis, along with an [issue brief](#) on improving education and diagnosis.
	   o Completed pilot testing for Diagnostic Safety Measurement for Learning and Improvement: A Resource To Identify, Analyze, and Learn From Diagnostic Safety Events; expected to post around May.
	   o Pilot testing Calibrate Dx: A Resource To Improve Diagnostic Decisions.
	
	• Evidence-based Practice Center Program
	   o Peer review completed mid-December, with comments from four peer reviewers and three TEP members. Posted draft report to the AHRQ website on March 2.

Agency	Update

FDA	• Mentored Implementation and Dissemination of Anticoagulation Stewardship (MIDAS) Program
	  o The Anticoagulation Forum has partnered with the National Quality Forum (NQF) to disseminate the Playbook. It will be posted on the NQF website after the project is completed.
	
	• The ICARE TOC Program
	  o Investigators will develop a pharmacist-led hospital-community collaborative transitions of care (TOC) program to decrease medication-related harm in patients at high risk for hospital readmission due to multiple recent admissions (independent of specific disease state).

NIH/NCI/ HSIRB	• Grants awarded to improve care management of depression
	  o A new grant awarded, "NIH to evaluate COVID-19 at-home testing system." Principal Investigator:: Paul Barr, Dartmouth.
	  o Three SBIR contracts were awarded for the social determinants of health topic:(1) Software to Address Social Determinants of Health in Oncology Practices; (2) Screening for Social Determinants of Health and Interventions to Improve Outcomes in Cancer Patients; and (3) An Integrated Multi-level Decision Support Platform to Address Patient-Centered and Evidence Based Social Determinants of Health.
	  o One contract, "A Digital Experience to Improve Survivorship Among AYA Cancer Survivors," was awarded for the pediatric cancer survivor topic.

ONC	• TEFCA Interoperability Work
	  o ONC published the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Version 1 and QHIN Technical Framework Version 1 on January 18, 2022.
	  o Entities seeking to be designated as Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs) can begin reviewing the requirements and considering whether to voluntarily apply.
	  o The goal of the TEFCA is to establish a universal floor of interoperability across the country.

Following agency updates and a presentation from the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, the IAWG Subcommittee discussed committee goals and identified next steps for the discovery phase of their work. The IAWG Subcommittee will reconvene prior to the next at-large IAWG meeting to formalize next steps.

The next IAWG meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2022, at 10 a.m. EDT.