

# 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:

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


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



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

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.