

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

**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, 2021, 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>CMS</b>	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<b>HRSA</b>	Health Resources and Services Administration
<b>IHS</b>	Indian Health Service
<b>NIH/NIBIB</b>	National Institutes of Health/Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
<b>NIH/NLM</b>	National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine
<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>SAMSHA</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<b>VA</b>	Veterans Affairs

The aims of the meeting were to: (1) Hear from Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation representatives on current work and future plans; (2) provide agency updates related to diagnosis improvement research, as well as COVID-19 response efforts and impact; and (3) discuss potential collaborative work in three topic areas.

Updates addressed during the meeting include the following:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>AHRQ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New issue brief posted to the AHRQ website: <a href="#">Health Information Technology for Engaging Patients in Diagnostic Decision Making in Emergency Departments</a>.</li> </ul>



Agency	Update
<b>AHRQ (cont'd.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources in development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>One Minute to Improve Diagnosis</i> has been pilot tested and feedback will be used for final revisions.</li> <li>○ We have begun pilot testing the TeamSTEPPS for Improving Diagnosis curriculum.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The guide to improving clinician calibration is in the developmental phase.</li> <li>• EPC Program systematic review on <i>Diagnostic Errors in the Emergency Department</i> draft report is due in June 2021.</li> <li>• Surveys on Patient Safety Culture Diagnostic Safety Supplemental Item Set is scheduled for release April 15, 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>CDC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Division of Laboratory Systems:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In 2021, CDC published <i>Bringing the Clinical Laboratory into the Strategy to Advance Diagnostic Excellence</i>.</li> <li>○ ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Project: A Model for Diagnostic Excellence 2020 recordings are now available.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion:</b> CDC guidance on COVID-19 diagnostic assays is available and includes important guidance on the use of point-of-care antigen assays.</li> </ul>
<b>HRSA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communications Initiatives:</b> ECRI education has been added to address team function that includes diagnostic safety, as part of HRSA quality improvement education efforts.</li> <li>• <b>COVID-19 Repercussions Effort:</b> Supports a Health and Human Services workgroup that focuses on the data and analytics focused COVID Executive Orders.</li> </ul>
<b>IHS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enhanced Adverse Event Reporting Capabilities:</b> IHS Safety Tracking and Response (I-STAR) system replaced the legacy system. Future goal is to align the platform with AHRQ's Common Formats for Event Reporting.</li> <li>• <b>Division of Patient Safety:</b> IHS launched a new headquarters-level Office of Quality in January 2019, and a component of this new Office is the Division of Patient Safety and Clinical Risk Management.</li> <li>• <b>COVID Response:</b> Work has focused on preventing the spread of the disease, testing and treating the IHS communities, and, more recently, vaccinating this population. Critical Care Response Teams have played a key role in educational efforts for medical staff.</li> </ul>

Agency	Update
NIH/NIBIB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medical Imaging and Data Resource Center (MIDRC):</b> The aim of MIDRC is to foster machine learning innovation through data sharing for rapid and flexible collection, analysis, and dissemination of imaging and associated clinical data by providing researchers with unparalleled resources in the fight against COVID-19.</li> <li>• <b>RADx Home COVID Testing App:</b> NIBIB is leading an effort to evaluate home COVID testing when paired with an app, through the RADx initiative.</li> </ul>
NIH/NCI/Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two SBIR contract topics were released in 2020 that are relevant to the diagnostic process in cancer care delivery: Understanding Cancer Tumor Genomic Results: Technology Applications for Providers and Software to Address Social Determinants of Health in Oncology Practices.</li> </ul>
VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><i>High Priority Research Topics for Diagnostic Safety:</i></u> Open access paper highlights 20 research topics that are potential RFAs or other project ideas.</li> <li>• <u><i>Analysis of Patient Complaints for Diagnosis-Related Concerns:</i></u> Paper discusses potential ideas for using patient-generated data, specifically patient complaints in diagnostic-related concerns.</li> </ul>

Guided by IAWG member survey and previous meeting discussion, the group discussed interest in and potential next steps for collaborative work in specific topic areas. Group interest will continue to be gathered via email.

Next Steps: The next IAWG meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2021.