

Federal Interagency Workgroup on 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 July 22, 2021, 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
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
IHS	Indian Health Service
NIH/NIBIB	National Institutes of Health/Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
NIH/NLM	National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine
NIH/NCI	National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute
ONC	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
VA	Veterans Affairs

The aims of the meeting were to: (1) Provide agency updates related to diagnostic improvement research and COVID-19 response efforts and impact; and (2) Discuss potential collaborative work in the space of health information technology and improving diagnosis.

Updates addressed during the meeting include the following:

Agency	Update
AHRQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted to the AHRQ website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership To Improve Diagnosis: A Call to Action ○ Bridging the feedback gap: a sociotechnical approach to informing clinicians of patients' subsequent clinical course and outcomes • Resources in Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engaging Patients To Improve Diagnostic Safety Toolkit is expected to be posted in August. ○ Nearing completion of pilot testing TeamSTEPPS for Improving Diagnosis curriculum.



Agency	Update
AHRQ (cont'd.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting ready to start pilot testing Diagnostic Safety Measurement for Learning and Improvement: A Resource To Identify, Analyze, and Learn From Diagnostic Safety Events and will soon receive a draft of a clinician calibration resource. • Posted a new program announcement for Patient Safety Learning Labs to be awarded in FY 22 and 23. • The Evidence-based Practice Center Program is developing a systematic review on Diagnostic Errors in the Emergency Department. The draft report is expected in August. • Common Formats: CFER-DS v 0.1 was available for public comment through July 1, 2021. National Quality Forum Expert Panel meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2021. • Diagnostic Safety Supplemental Item Set for Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety Culture has been released.
NIH/Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIH-funded screening study builds case for frequent COVID-19 antigen testing. Rapid antigen tests perform on par with lab tests when used every 3 days. • NIH study suggests COVID-19 prevalence far exceeded early pandemic cases. Researchers estimate nearly 17 million undiagnosed cases in the United States by mid-July 2020.
NIH/NCI/Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards are expected to be made for two Small Business Innovation Research topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Software To Address Social Determinants of Health in Oncology Practices ○ Digital Tools To Improve Health Outcomes in Pediatric Cancer Survivors • Funding opportunities released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RFA on Centers On Telehealth Research for Cancer-Related Care ○ NOSI on Telehealth in Cancer Care ○ NOSI on New Information Technology-Enabled Care Delivery Models To Improve Depression Care In Cancer
VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two recently published papers: (1) New research on implementation gaps related to test result followup in the VA; (2) New review shows how electronic health records currently cannot fully support primary care physicians' situation awareness. • World Health Organization Global Patient Safety Action Plan has been published.

After agency updates, co-leaders of the Subcommittee on Health Information Technology and Improving Diagnosis gave a report on the inaugural meeting and facilitated discussion with members on next steps related to cross-agency collaboration. The Subcommittee will reconvene before the next full committee meeting to formalize next steps to initiate potential projects.

Next Steps: The next IAWG meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2021.