

# 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 November 6, 2020, from 1 p.m. to 3 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>HRSA</b>	Health Resources and Services Administration
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<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/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>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) Provide agency updates related to diagnosis improvement research as well as COVID-19 response efforts and impacts; and (2) Discuss topic areas that could be the focus of collaborative work and ways to operationalize the work.

Updates addressed during the meeting include the following:

Agency	Update
<b>AHRQ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new issue briefs have been posted to the AHRQ website:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Telediagnosis for Acute Care: Implications for the Quality and Safety of Diagnosis</a> and</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Evidence on Use of Clinical Reasoning Checklists for Diagnostic Error Reduction</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Agency	Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources in Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A new “how to” resource is currently being developed based on the recent issue brief to operationalize diagnostic measurement.</li> <li>○ We have begun pilot testing, in up to 20 primary care sites, our resource to engage patients and families in the diagnostic process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Diagnostic Error in Medicine (DEM) Conference: A presentation based on the AHRQ measurement issue brief was a concurrent session at the SIDM 2020 meeting.</li> <li>• Surveys on Patient Safety Culture Diagnostic Safety Supplemental Item Set will be pilot tested in over 50 medical offices in fall 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>FDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentored Implementation and Dissemination of Anticoagulation Stewardship (MIDAS) Program: This mentoring program is designed to assist clinics and hospitals to improve the use of anticoagulants.</li> <li>• Preventable Harm From Pediatric Outpatient Medication Errors: Measure Development: This project seeks to develop measures that can be used to assess pediatric outpatient medication safety.</li> </ul>
<b>NIH/NCI/HSIRB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient Navigation: Five contracts were awarded to small businesses in response to the Software for Patient Navigation Through the Cancer Care Continuum solicitation.</li> </ul>
<b>OASH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS): This OASH effort focuses on standardizing clinical criteria to define NAS by using evidence-based methodology and a public-private partnership (P3) as part of the <a href="#">overall HHS initiative</a>.</li> <li>• LymeX P3 with Cohen Foundation: <a href="#">This is the largest Lyme P3 in history</a>. Its mission is to strategically advance Lyme and tickborne disease solutions in direct collaboration with Lyme patients, patient advocates, and diverse stakeholders across academia, nonprofits, industry, and government. It includes up to \$25 million for innovation prize awards.</li> <li>• Developing a COVID-19 Diagnostics Data Platform: OASH, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Information Officer, will take a collaborative approach to developing a COVID-19 diagnostics data platform in a Secretary-driven effort with its basis in Cares Act language.</li> </ul>
<b>VA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards Diagnostic Safety in High Reliability Organizations: This series on “Becoming a High Reliability Organization” was published by VA Research. One <a href="#">article focuses on diagnostic safety</a> and highlights the VA’s efforts to improve the timeliness of diagnostic testing communication to patients, including a measurement system that provides feedback on the timeliness of communication.</li> </ul>

The group reviewed responses from an IAWG member survey on potential research areas ripe for collaboration. The discussion included topic-specific comments around diagnostic errors related to health information technology, communication among stakeholders related to diagnosis, and machine learning. Members recognized the interconnection between research areas and suggested new topics that might be explored. The group will continue discussion around areas of common interest and collaboration and shared work via email and during the next meeting.

Next Steps: The next IAWG meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021.