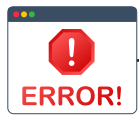


Safety: Improving Diagnosis

Problem

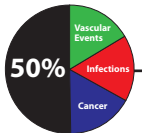
12 million Americans suffer a diagnostic error each year. More than 1 million people each year suffer severe consequences as a result of diagnostic delays and errors.



- An estimated **12 million people** per year are affected by **diagnostic error** with approximately 4 million of these people suffering serious harm.



- The cost of **diagnostic error** to the U.S. healthcare system may be well over **\$100 billion annually**.



- **Vascular events, infections, and cancer**—“the big three”—make up at least **50 percent of the diagnostic errors** causing serious harm (including death).



- **Misdiagnosis** is the number one cause of **malpractice claims** in primary care, emergency medicine, radiology, and most medical sub-specialties; it is the number two cause of claims in surgical specialties.

Solution

The application of successful patient safety strategies, predictive analytics, personalized and precision medicine, and new technologies offer opportunities for transformative improvement. AHRQ will **invest in research to improve diagnosis for the “Big 3”: cancer, vascular events, infections**. Then develop, test, and disseminate tools to apply these new strategies at the point of care.

Elements



- Research to **discover and synthesize new knowledge**



- Development of novel tools to **improve diagnosis and practice**





- Innovative use of **data, predictive analytics, and information technology**



- Coordinated dissemination and implementation to **support use of new tools**

How AHRQ is Building a Foundation Today

- New grant-funded research opportunities:
 - **AHRQ Patient Safety Learning Laboratories** includes emphasis on improving diagnosis (R18)
 - **AHRQ HSR Project: Partners Enabling Diagnostic Excellence** (R01)
- Leading the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Diagnostic Safety and Quality
- **Question Builder app** helps patients and caregivers prepare and organize questions and other helpful information before medical visits and puts that information at their fingertips to help ensure more accurate, timely diagnoses

Goal

Reduce the number of diagnostic errors occurring each year in the U.S. medical system by 1 million per year by 2025.

Impact

In addition to reducing patient and family harm, **1 million fewer diagnostic errors** would potentially result in **\$500 million in savings** from reduced wasteful spending every year.



AHRQ investment →

1 million fewer diagnostic errors →

Avoid \$500 million per year in wasted costs of low-value care



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