

# Federal Interagency Workgroup: Improving Diagnostic Safety and Quality in Healthcare 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.” (NASEM stands for “National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.”)

**Workgroup Summary:** The latest workgroup meeting occurred virtually on November 3, 2022, and was attended by representatives from the following agencies:

AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
DoD	Department of Defense
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
IHS	Indian Health Service
NIH/NIBIB	National Institutes of Health/National Institute of 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
OASH	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs

The aims of this meeting were to (1) listen to a presentation on Using ASPE’s PCORTF for Data Structure Enhancement, (2) provide agency updates related to diagnosis improvement efforts, and (3) discuss next steps for a collaborative white paper on best practices for using electronic patient portals to release test results.

Agency	Update
<b>AHRQ/ Improvement and Patient Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnostic Safety Building Contract               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Posted three new issue briefs on the AHRQ website: (1) <a href="#">Distributed Cognition and the Role of Nurses in Diagnostic Safety in the Emergency Department</a>; (2) <a href="#">Improved Diagnostic Accuracy Through Probability-Based Diagnosis</a>; (3) <a href="#">Reinforcing the Value and Roles of Nurses in Diagnostic Safety: Pragmatic Recommendations for Nurse Leaders and Educators</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Agency	Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Posted <a href="#">Calibrate Dx: A Resource To Improve Diagnostic Decisions</a> on the AHRQ website.</li> <li>● Diagnostic Safety Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awarded <a href="#">10 Diagnostic Safety Centers of Excellence grants</a> under NOFO <a href="#">Diagnostic Centers of Excellence: Partnerships to Improve Diagnostic Safety and Quality (R18)</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Patient Safety Learning Laboratories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funded five Patient Safety Learning Labs in FY22, one of which focuses on improving diagnostic safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Diagnostic Error in Medicine (DEM) Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented on the four resources stemming from the diagnostic safety contract and on TeamSTEPPS for Diagnosis Improvement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● EPC Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Posting of the final approved report on hold, pending anticipated copublication of one or more manuscripts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Common Formats for Event Reporting – Diagnostic Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Released the Common Formats for Event Reporting – Diagnostic Safety (CFER-DS) Version 1.0 and made <a href="#">additional technical specifications</a> available September 1, 2022. Collecting public comments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>CDC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health Equity and Diagnostic Errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collaborating with the National Association of Community Health Centers to finalize participation of federally qualified health centers in leveraging laboratory outreach strategies to reduce missed/delayed diagnoses for severe hypercholesterolemia. The Division of Laboratory Systems is working on this effort with the CDC Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, in partnership with Million Hearts®.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">CLIAC</a> has three workgroups looking at the current CLIA regulations to determine how they may be updated to reflect how laboratory testing is performed currently.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Collaboration With Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion on Blood Culture Contamination Laboratory Measure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The measure was recommended for endorsement after the June 2022 National Quality Forum (NQF) meeting and opened for public comments until September 6, 2022. The has measure moved on for full endorsement by NQF.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Agency	Update
<b>FDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mentored Implementation and Dissemination of Anticoagulation Stewardship (MIDAS) Program is complete and the playbook is available for download at no cost from the <a href="#">NQF website</a>.</li> <li>• Oral Anticoagulation Surveillance and Improvement through Stewardship (OASIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FDA’s Safe Use Initiative funded one new project under FY22 that is relevant to diagnostic safety. This project involves assessing hospital needs for direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) prescribing, followed by developing and implementing a DOAC dashboard based in the electronic health record to support anticoagulation stewardship and reduce prescribing errors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>OASH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnostic Innovation and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy, in collaboration with related federal interagency working groups, oversees the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the STI National Strategic Plan, and the Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan. Each of these plans includes objectives, strategies, and actions to facilitate the development and implementation of innovative diagnostics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Red Blood Cell Antibody Repository Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The principal objective of this pilot project is to exchange red blood cell antibody data between hospitals, sharing data already contained within the hospital’s blood bank information systems, with an overarching goal of improving transfusion safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contraceptive Care Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Office of Population Affairs (OPA) Contraceptive Care Measures were re-endorsed by NQF in 2021 and are included in the CMS Core Set. OPA continues to provide annual updates and technical assistance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR) 2.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OPA is transitioning its existing Title X grantee data collection. Starting with the 2022 calendar year data collection, Title X grantees are transitioning to encounter level, standards-based reporting. All Title X grantees will report at the encounter level by the 2025 reporting year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quality Family Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OPA is updating the clinical guidelines, Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations of the CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs. These recommendations are a resource for family planning service and primary care providers, including those funded through Title X, to deliver high-quality, evidence-based family planning and related clinical health services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Agency	Update
NIH/NIBIB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulse Oximeter Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An NIBIB-supported team of researchers have reported that the <a href="#">performance of pulse oximeters</a> among minority patient groups may lead to the reduced delivery of supplemental oxygen, which could contribute to race-based disparities in healthcare.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NIH 2022 DEBUT Challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The first prize winner of the <a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> NIH annual Design by Biomedical Undergraduate Teams (DEBUT) Challenge</a> is EquinOx, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. The EquinOx attempts to mitigate the bias that most pulse oximeters exhibit by failing to account for differing patient skin tones.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Following agency updates and a presentation on using ASPE’s PCORTF for Data Structure Enhancement, the IAWG Subcommittee discussed next steps for a scoping review that will inform a collaborative white paper on patient-centered best practices related to using electronic patient portals to release test results. The IAWG Subcommittee will look to formalize next steps before the next IAWG meeting, scheduled for March 2023.