Diagnostic errors in healthcare have received relatively little attention.

Diagnostic error has received relatively little attention. Task being performed Diagnosing patients

Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety

Contribute to ~10% of patient deaths

Compliance

Leading type of paid medical malpractice claims

Patient Services

Ineffective/delayed/unnecessary treatment

Schedule/Operations

Additional treatment required

Risk

Ineffective/delayed/unnecessary treatment

Diagnostic error

P5% of US adults who seek outpatient care each year experience a diagnostic error (“conservative estimate”); the best estimates indicate everyone in the US will likely experience a meaningful diagnostic error in their lifetime.

The report identifies eight goals that address these potential causes of diagnostic errors. These goals are presented as a call to action to health care professionals, organizations, patients and their families, as well as researchers and policy makers.

1. Facilitate more effective teamwork in the diagnostic process among health care professionals, patients and their families
2. Enhance health care professional education and training in the diagnostic process
3. Ensure that health information technologies support patients and health care professionals
4. Develop and deploy approaches to identify, learn from, and reduce diagnostic errors and near misses in clinical practice
5. Establish a work system and culture that supports the diagnostic process and improvements in diagnostic performance
6. Develop a reporting environment and medical liability system that facilitates improved diagnosis through learning from diagnostic errors and near misses
7. Design a payment and care delivery environment that supports the diagnostic process
8. Provide dedicated funding for research on the diagnostic process and diagnostic errors

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