

## **System-related interventions to reduce diagnostic errors: a narrative review.**

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Singh H, Graber ML, Kissam SM, et al. System-related interventions to reduce diagnostic errors: a narrative review. *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2012;21(2):160-170. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2011-000150.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/system-related-interventions-reduce-diagnostic-errors-narrative-review>

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[Diagnostic errors](#) have been termed the [next frontier](#) in patient safety, as these errors are quite common but have not yet been targeted outside of training programs. Diagnostic errors may be caused by individual or system-level problems, and this narrative review sought to develop a taxonomy of diagnostic error dimensions and identify approaches to addressing system-level causes. The authors identified five domains: provider–patient interaction (e.g., [missing important symptoms](#)); diagnostic testing (e.g., [overuse](#) or underuse of tests); follow-up (e.g., failure to act on [abnormal test results](#)); referrals (e.g., poor communication between providers); and [patient-related issues](#). The investigators found that few of the interventions proposed to address these issues have been formally tested, leaving clinicians with little evidence to guide approaches to minimizing diagnostic error.