

The patient is in: patient involvement strategies for diagnostic error mitigation.

September 18, 2013

McDonald KM, Bryce CL, Graber ML. The patient is in: patient involvement strategies for diagnostic error mitigation. *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2013;22 Suppl 2:ii33-ii39. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2012-001623.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/patient-patient-involvement-strategies-diagnostic-error-mitigation>

[Diagnostic errors](#) are increasingly recognized as an important—and costly—aspect of patient safety. This study advocates for [engaging patients](#) to improve diagnostic accuracy in their care and provides tactics to help patients prevent diagnostic errors, including a list of questions to ask their provider. These approaches aim to enhance clinician–patient communication and to help physicians avoid their own [cognitive biases](#). The article also argues for the role of patients as a "crucial voice" in augmenting diagnostic delivery systems, research, and policy. A previous AHRQ WebM&M [perspective](#) with Dr. Mark Graber discussed diagnostic errors along with strategies for clinicians to avert cognitive pitfalls.