

## **Electronic trigger-based intervention to reduce delays in diagnostic evaluation for cancer: a cluster randomized controlled trial.**

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Murphy DR, Wu L, Thomas EJ, et al. Electronic Trigger-Based Intervention to Reduce Delays in Diagnostic Evaluation for Cancer: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial. J Clin Oncol. 2015;33(31):3560-7.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/electronic-trigger-based-intervention-reduce-delays-diagnostic-evaluation-cancer-cluster>

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Trigger tools are algorithms that prompt clinicians to investigate a potential adverse event. These tools are in routine practice for detection of [adverse drug events](#) and have been used to identify diagnostic delays. Investigators randomized physicians to either no intervention or to receive triggers related to cancer diagnosis; each trigger was an abnormal diagnostic test result for which follow-up testing is recommended. Delays in acting on abnormal test results are a known cause of adverse events. Sending reminders to physicians based on the trigger process led to higher rates of recommended diagnostic evaluation completion and a shorter time to completion for two of the three studied conditions. These promising results suggest that trigger tools could play a role in improving [diagnosis](#) across a range of conditions.