

## Health IT Safe Practices for Closing the Loop.

August 22, 2018

Partnership for Health IT Patient Safety. Plymouth Meeting, PA: ECRI; August 2018.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/health-it-safe-practices-closing-loop>

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Inadequate follow-up of [test results](#) can contribute to [missed and delayed diagnoses](#). Developing optimal test result management systems is essential for [closing the loop](#) so that results can be acted upon in a timely manner. The Partnership for Health IT Patient Safety convened a working group to identify how technology can be used to facilitate improved communication and timely action regarding test results. This report summarizes the methods used by the working group and their findings. Recommendations include improving communication by standardizing the format of test results, including required timing for diagnostic testing responses, automating the notification process in electronic health records, and optimizing alerts to reduce alert fatigue. A past [WebM&M commentary](#) discussed a case involving [ambulatory](#) test result management.