

Do patients who read visit notes on the patient portal have a higher rate of "loop closure" on diagnostic tests and referrals in primary care? A retrospective cohort study.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/do-patients-who-read-visit-notes-patient-portal-have-higher-rate-loop-closure-diagnostic>

Prompt completion of diagnostic tests or referrals is paramount to receiving a timely diagnosis and treatment. In this study, completion rates for three common diagnostic tests or referrals (i.e., [colonoscopy](#), [concerning skin lesions](#), cardiac stress test) were compared between patients who do not access a patient portal; patients who do have access but do not read visit notes; and patients who have access and who do read visit notes. Completion rates were highest for patients who read visit notes (62%) compared with those who do not read notes (57%) and those with no portal use (54%). The authors state timely completion rates for all groups remain below recommend [thresholds](#) and increased patient engagement is required.