

Coalition to Improve Diagnosis

An Initiative of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need a Coalition? According to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one in 10 diagnoses are incorrect—and most people will experience an incorrect diagnosis at some point in their lifetime. Improving diagnosis will not happen overnight. The complexity of the diagnostic process and the collaborative, team-based approaches needed to improve accuracy will require disciplined and sustained work in the coming years, with a deep engagement of diverse stakeholders. The Coalition to Improve Diagnosis is the only collaboration of diverse stakeholders in health care that is singularly focused on this important issue.

Who is in the Coalition? The Coalition is comprised of many of the most prestigious organizations in the medical and patient community, all of whom have committed to taking action in their organizations to improve diagnosis and reduce harm from diagnostic error. An up-to-date list of members can always be found at the Coalition's website, www.DxCoalition.org.

What is the purpose of the Coalition? The Coalition to Improve Diagnosis, convened by the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM), increases awareness and actions that improve diagnosis. Members of the Coalition represent hundreds of thousands of healthcare providers and patients—and the leading health organizations and government agencies involved in patient care. Together, we work to find solutions that enhance diagnostic quality and safety, reduce harm, and ultimately, ensure better health outcomes for patients.

What are the goals of the Coalition?

- To bring greater attention and awareness to the issue of errors in diagnosis among Coalition member organizations and their constituents, among healthcare influencers and professionals, with policymakers and with the general public.
- To catalyze measurable action to improve diagnosis.
- To collaborate on Coalition-defined collective actions:
 - Increasing awareness and engagement
 - Advocating for increased research funding
 - Supporting the identification and adoption of effective quality improvement strategies

Why should my organization join the Coalition? The problem of diagnostic error is gaining significant attention in the healthcare community, yet there has not been focused and thoughtful discussion about how to improve the diagnostic process. The Coalition will be the driving force in that conversation. The Coalition is leading major change in improving the diagnostic process and increasing awareness of the harms and costs of diagnostic error. The organizations in the Coalition play a prominent role in driving those changes. We would like to see every organization involved in health care join us, whether physician-led or patient-led, involved in policy or research, education or care delivery. If your organization becomes part of the Coalition, you will:

- Receive recognition for your efforts to improve diagnosis in Coalition materials.
- Inform the strategy of the Coalition in pursuing its collective actions including *ACT for Better Diagnosis™* to increase awareness of the problem of diagnostic error and have their activities profiled in that effort.
- Receive technical assistance from SIDM staff and consultants to enhance and promote your initiatives that are focused on improving the diagnostic process.
- Interact with other Coalition members with the potential to develop partnerships.

Coalition Governance

How is the Coalition governed? The Coalition is a program of SIDM, whose Board of Directors authorizes Coalition actions. The SIDM Board of Directors is supported in those efforts by an Advisory Committee of the Coalition. All coalition members inform and guide the activities of the Coalition in support of the Coalition strategy. Achieving broad and substantial consensus has always been a hallmark of the Coalition.



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Cost

Is there a cost to membership? No member dues are assessed, but we hope member organizations will also become organizational members in SIDM. Each organization is expected to absorb the costs of its participation and its individual initiatives. Additionally, members may support the Coalition through contributions or in-kind support, which could include:

- Promoting Coalition messages and initiatives through their organization’s publications (ad or editorial space), events, website, emails, social media, etc.
- Providing Staff support (e.g., communications, policy or membership outreach) from their organization for Coalition initiatives.
- Attending Coalition events—such as an annual meeting held in conjunction with the Diagnostic Error in Medicine conference—is strongly encouraged but not required.
- Providing a complimentary exhibit booth at your annual meeting to promote the work of the Coalition including the *ACT for Better Diagnosis* initiative.
- Encouraging organizational Coalition representatives to join SIDM as a member as a measure of support for SIDM’s work and to stay current with all diagnostic quality and safety activities beyond the work of the Coalition.

If there are no costs, is the Coalition sustainable? SIDM’s vision is to “create a world where no patients are harmed by diagnostic error.” The work of the Coalition is a core element of SIDM’s strategy for achieving its vision and is consistent with its mission of “catalyzing and leading change to improve diagnosis and eliminate harm from diagnostic error, in partnership with patients, their families, the healthcare community and every interested stakeholder.” SIDM believes the Coalition is vital to its success and supports the Coalition financially, using operating funds and core staff to support the activities of the Coalition. Over time we may need additional support from Coalition members to ensure the work continues.

Participation

How does one become a Coalition member? Not-for-profit healthcare organizations representing clinicians and other healthcare professionals, patients and families, employers, consumer advocates, insurers, researchers, policymakers, and educators, are welcome to join the Coalition by submitting the Coalition’s application in which they commit to the following requirements:

- Accept the Coalition’s “Shared Principles” statement.
- Approve the use of their organization’s name on Coalition materials (advance review is always provided) including the Coalition and SIDM website and in other marketing materials about the Coalition and *ACT for Better Diagnosis*.
- Support the work of the Coalition on all of its collective actions in whatever way is appropriate for the member organization.
- Commit to engage their organization in ongoing individual meaningful action toward reducing the harm of diagnostic error and improving diagnostic accuracy and timeliness.

We’re a government organization and may be limited in our activities. Can we still join? Currently, the Coalition includes the active participation of a number of governmental organizations. We welcome and encourage their participation if they are aligned with the mission of the Coalition. We currently list them as “federal liaisons”. The Coalition understands that there are further limits on the activities of these liaisons but welcomes and encourages their engagement.

Views and knowledge shared by federal liaisons to the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM) and the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis (CID) are limited to activities consistent with the mission of the respective federal agencies. Federal participants serving in their official capacity must not be interpreted as agency endorsement of either SIDM or the CID’s activities, business practices, or efforts to advocate or lobby for federal funds.



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I'm a commercial organization – can I join? SIDM welcomes financial support from commercial organizations as long as they abide by the SIDM conflict of interest policies. At this time, they cannot be members of the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis. Non-profit or trade associations that represent industry can become members of the Coalition.

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