

Figure 1: Safer Dx Tool

SaferDx Tool: Screening for Diagnostic Error

The history that was documented at the patient-provider encounter was suggestive of an alternate diagnosis, which was not considered in the assessment

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The physical exam documented at the patient-provider encounter was suggestive of an alternate diagnosis, which was not considered in the assessment

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Diagnostic testing data (laboratory, radiology, pathology or other results) associated with the patient-provider encounter were suggestive of an alternate diagnosis, which was not considered in the initial assessment.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The diagnostic process at the initial assessment was affected by incomplete or incorrect clinical information given to the care team by the patient or their primary caregiver

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The clinical information (i.e., history, physical exam or diagnostic data) present at the initial assessment should have prompted additional diagnostic evaluation through tests or consults.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Alarm symptoms or "Red Flags" (i.e., features in the clinical presentation that are considered to predict serious disease) were not acted upon at an earlier assessment

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Diagnostic data (laboratory, radiology, pathology or other results) available or documented at the initial assessment were misinterpreted in relation to the subsequent final diagnosis.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The differential diagnosis documented at the initial assessment included the subsequent final diagnosis.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The final diagnosis was an evolution of the initial presumed diagnosis

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The clinical presentation was not typical of the final diagnosis.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

In conclusion, based on all the above questions, the episode of care under review had a diagnostic error

☐ Yes ☐ No

If a diagnostic error, what is the clinical impact?

☐ No impact at all
☐ Minor (patient inconvenience or dissatisfaction)
☐ Moderate (short-term morbidity, increased length of stay, or invasive procedure)
☐ Major (death, permanent disability, near life-threatening event)

Figure 2: Diagnostic Error Evaluation and Research (DEER) Taxonomy survey

DEER Taxonomy for Categorizing Diagnostic Error	
1. Access/Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/denied care access
2. History	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in eliciting a critical piece of history data <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccurate/misinterpreted critical piece of history data <input type="checkbox"/> Suboptimal weighing of a critical piece of history data <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay to follow-up on a critical piece of history data
3. Physical Examination	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in eliciting a critical physical exam finding <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccurate/misinterpreted critical physical exam finding <input type="checkbox"/> Suboptimal weighing of a critical physical exam finding <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in following up on a critical physical exam finding
4. Tests (Laboratory/Radiology)	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in ordering needed test(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in performing ordered test(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Suboptimal test sequencing <input type="checkbox"/> Ordering of wrong test(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Test ordered wrong way <input type="checkbox"/> Sample mix-up/mislabel <input type="checkbox"/> Technical errors/poor processing of specimen/test <input type="checkbox"/> Erroneous laboratory/radiology reading of test <input type="checkbox"/> Failed/delayed transmission of result to clinician <input type="checkbox"/> Failed/delayed follow-up action on test result <input type="checkbox"/> Erroneous clinician interpretation of test
5. Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in considering correct diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/> Suboptimal weighing/prioritizing <input type="checkbox"/> Too much weight to lower probability/priority diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay to recognize/weigh urgency <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay to recognize/weigh complications
6. Referral/Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure in ordering referral/calling consult <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in consult completion or obtaining/scheduling ordered referral <input type="checkbox"/> Error in diagnostic consultation performance <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delayed communication/follow-up consultation
7. Follow-up	<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to refer patient to close/safe setting/monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Failure/delay in timely follow-up/rechecking of patient