

Letter

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Demonstration Collaborative project to reduce emergency department radiologic diagnostic errors

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The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority is partnering with the Health Care Improvement Foundation in a 2- to 3-year demonstration project aimed at identifying and reducing emergency department (ED) radiologic diagnostic errors. This program is 1 of 14 areas of focus under the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) Partnership for Patients Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Project leaders will use a mixed methods approach for gathering information to help guide the scope of the project. Sources of information will include relevant literature; incidents and serious events reported through the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System; professional liability claims; questionnaires completed by frontline healthcare providers and quality/safety professionals; observations conducted in academic, community and critical access hospitals; and interviews with clinicians in radiology and the ED. Project leaders will then form a multidisciplinary panel consisting of stakeholders and experts, including radiologists, radiologic technologists, emergency physicians and

advanced practice providers, emergency nurses, health system leaders, patients, representatives from various professional organizations and board members from the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM). Using the information described above, along with their personal knowledge, experience and perspectives, panel members will help to refine the scope of the project, identify improvement opportunities and establish standardized performance measures.

Project leaders will then work with a group of pilot hospitals in the HAP HIIN to test the defined measures and use comparative results to drive improvement. Final defined and tested measures and interventions will be shared more broadly across Pennsylvania and with other HIINs.

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