

Diagnosis Error Evaluation and Research (DEER) Taxonomy

WHERE IN THE DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS AN ERROR MAY HAVE OCCURRED

1. Access/Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in presentation b. Failure/denied care access
2. History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in eliciting critical piece of history data b. Inaccurate/misinterpreted/overlooked critical piece of history data c. Failure in weighing critical piece of history data d. Failure/delay to follow-up critical piece of history data
3. Physical exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in eliciting critical physical exam finding b. Inaccurate/misinterpreted/overlooked critical physical exam finding c. Failure in weighing critical physical exam finding d. Failure/delay to follow-up critical physical exam finding
4. Tests (lab/radiology)	<p><i>Ordering (traditionally called “pre-analytic phase”)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in ordering needed test(s) b. Failure/delay in performing ordered test(s) c. Error in test sequencing d. Ordering of wrong test(s) e. Tests ordered wrong way <p><i>Performance (traditionally called “analytic phase”)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Sample mix-up/mislabeled (e.g., wrong patient/test) g. Specimen delivery problem h. Technical errors/poor processing of specimen/test i. Erroneous lab/radiology reading of test j. Failed/delayed reporting of result to clinician <p><i>Clinician Processing (traditionally called “post-analytic phase”)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> k. Failed/delayed follow-up of (abnormal) test result l. Error in clinician interpretation of test
5. Assessment	<p><i>Hypothesis Generation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in considering the diagnosis <p><i>Suboptimal weighing/prioritizing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Too little consideration/weight given to the diagnosis c. Too much weight on competing/coexisting diagnosis <p><i>Recognizing urgency/complications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Failed/delayed follow-up of (abnormal) test result e. Error in clinician interpretation of test
6. Referral consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in ordering referral/consult b. Failure/delay in obtaining/scheduling ordered referral c. Error/suboptimal quality in diagnostic consultation performance d. Failed/delayed communication/follow-up of consultation
7. Follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Failure/delay in timely follow-up/rechecking of patient b. Failure to refer patient to close/safe setting/monitoring c. Failure/delay in needed monitoring or lab (BP, INR, repeat CXR) d. Failure/delay in communicating findings among healthcare providers

