

# Diagnosis Error Case Reporting Form

There are four general sources for finding diagnostic errors: existing quality and safety data, patient feedback, electronic health record scans using trigger tools, or clinician and staff event reports. For simplicity's sake, this form is a sample diagnostic error event reporting form. Diagnostic errors can be reported through a general safety event reporting system or a dedicated diagnostic safety system.

This form provides a systematic way for clinicians and staff to collect, review and present a case of diagnostic error. The form can be used as a standalone document or fields can be integrated into an electronic reporting system. It also can be adapted for collecting and categorizing cases into a data set for surveillance or research.

## 1. Diagnosis

Initial diagnosis: Enter the patient's initial or interim diagnosis (leave blank if no diagnosis was made)

Final/correct diagnosis: Enter the patient's final/correct diagnosis

## 2. Summary

Provide a brief description of the diagnostic safety event, what happened and why. Follow your organization's standards for protecting patient information and confidentiality.

1. How did the patient initially present?  
*What were symptoms, how did they evolve, where and how did patient present for medical evaluation*
2. What was the initial diagnostic assessment?
3. How did the symptoms/disease/assessment evolve?
4. What went wrong?  
*Misdiagnoses, delays, cognitive errors, or other missed opportunities for an accurate and timely diagnosis*
5. How was correct diagnosis established?  
*Factors that led to recognition of the correct diagnosis*
6. Were there diagnostic testing issues?  
*Including any failures to order, false positives/negatives, misinterpretation, follow-up failures*
7. Patient outcomes  
*Describe patient outcomes (including patient harms, if any) related to the event*

## 3. Contributing Factors/Issues/Pitfalls

If you or your organization has identified factors that may have contributed to causing this diagnostic error or delay, please list or describe them here.

## 4. Corrective Suggestions, Measures, Lessons

If you or your organization has taken any action and/or you have ideas or suggestions to prevent the same or similar diagnostic errors in future, please list/describe.

