Top Medical Societies and Healthcare Organizations Commit to Address Errors in Diagnosis

Coalition to Improve Diagnosis Will Bring Attention, Action to Diagnostic Errors

WASHINGTON, DC (August 25, 2015) – More than a dozen major medical societies and healthcare organizations, including patient and consumer advocates and government partners, have joined forces to address diagnostic errors in medicine, through the newly formed Coalition to Improve Diagnosis.

The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM) established and will lead the Coalition. The Coalition’s founding member organizations represent clinicians and other healthcare professionals, patients and families, employers, consumer advocates, researchers, policymakers and educators.

Errors in diagnosis are a system-wide issue that has received little national attention, yet they affect one in 20 patients, an estimated 12 million Americans each year. A groundbreaking report on diagnostic error to be released by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine this fall will outline the dimensions of the problem and the critical importance of addressing it.

“Physicians excel at diagnosis, but errors or delays in reaching the right diagnosis still create harm, and we can do better,” said Mark L. Graber, MD, FACP, president and founder, SIDM. “The vision of our Society—SIDM—is to ensure that diagnosis is accurate, timely and efficient. The Coalition to Improve Diagnosis will be the catalyst for changes in practice needed to realize this vision.”

The following organizations are members of the Coalition:

- ABIM Foundation,
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners,
- American Board of Internal Medicine,
- American Board of Medical Specialties,
- American College of Emergency Physicians,
- American College of Physicians,
- American Society for Healthcare Risk Management,
- Consumers Advancing Patient Safety,
- The Leapfrog Group,
- National Patient Safety Foundation, and
- Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine.
Also supporting the Coalition and its members are government partners:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“The Coalition will bring much-needed attention, awareness and action to this issue,” said Paul Epner, MBA, MEd, chair of the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis and executive vice president of the SIDM. “Engaging leading healthcare organizations, professional societies and patients is an essential step in improving the quality of care patients receive and in reducing harm that can result from diagnoses that are inaccurate, missed or inappropriately delayed.”

About the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis

The Coalition to Improve Diagnosis is a collaboration of leading healthcare organizations representing clinicians and other healthcare professionals, patients and families, employers, insurers, researchers, policymakers and educators. Member organizations have committed to take measurable action to improve diagnosis through the collective actions of the Coalition, as well as opportunities available to and led by each member organization. Visit www.DxCoalition.org to learn more.

About the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM)

SIDM is a physician-led nonprofit organization whose members include clinicians, patients and every stakeholder in the diagnostic process. SIDM sponsors the annual Diagnostic Error in Medicine conference and is the only organization focused on improving the quality and safety of medical diagnosis.

# # #