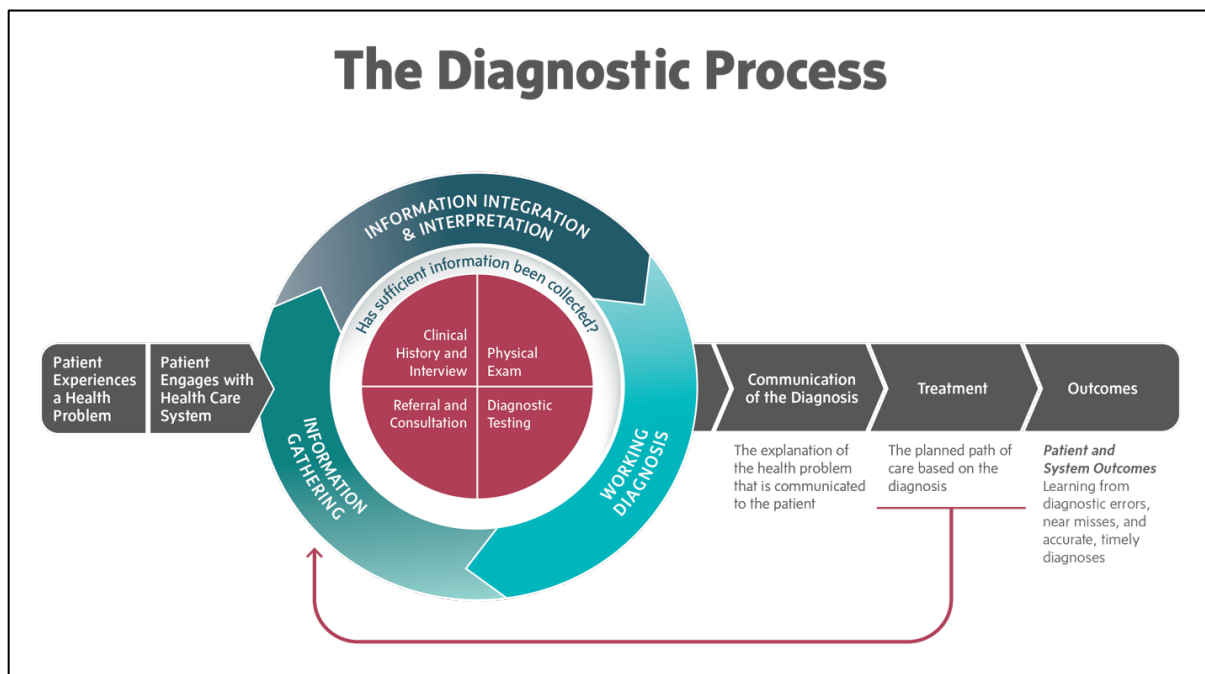


Understanding the diagnostic process

- Diagnosis is a process, not an event.
- Diagnosis is often uncertain.
- Diagnosis evolves and changes.
- Time is always an issue.
- Diagnosis requires a continually open mind.
- Diagnosis is an interaction, not an edict from above.
- To be accurate, it requires your input and active participation.
- It can't be done without you.



[National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2015. Improving diagnosis in health care. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.](#)

The Patient Is In!

Tips to help ensure that you get an accurate diagnosis

- Be prepared
 - Do your homework
 - Have a goal
 - Be clear and concise
 - Keep written records
- Ask questions and communicate well
 - Be sure you and your diagnostician understand each other
 - Be sure your concerns are addressed
 - Be respectful and courteous, and expect the same
- Follow up
 - Understand the plan
 - Understand your diagnostician's reasoning
 - Understand the changes to watch for
 - Be open to changing diagnoses

[McDonald KM, Bryce CL, Graber ML. The patient is in: patient involvement strategies for diagnostic error mitigation. BMJ Qual Saf 2013;22:ii33–ii39.](#)

