

Working Together to Reach a Diagnosis

A tool for doctors and patients
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Khazen M, Mirica M, Carlile N, Groisser A, Schiff GD. Developing a Framework and Electronic Tool for Communicating Diagnostic Uncertainty in Primary Care: A Qualitative Study. JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Mar 1;6(3):e232218. doi: [10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.2218](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.2218). PMID: 36892841; PMCID: PMC9999246.

Working Together to Reach A Diagnosis: What To Do and Why Do We (Patients and Doctors) Need to Do It?

| DOCTOR | | PATIENT |
|--|---|---|
| UNDERSTANDING DIAGNOSIS: Diagnosis is not a 100% exact science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often there can be multiple factors causing an illness. Thus, we might consider a variety of possibilities and sometimes we are less certain. Tests (such as blood tests/x-rays) may not always provide an exact answer. That's why we need to work together to be certain we give you the most appropriate treatment. | | What Do I need to know? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| Symptoms: I • <hr/> • <hr/> | Findings from tests relevant to diagnosis • <hr/> • <hr/> | Have the symptoms changed? Are there new symptoms since last visit? Describe: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| The most likely explanation(s) of your symptoms: • <hr/> • <hr/> Other possibilities: • <hr/> • <hr/> | | |
| NEXT STEPS: Working together for most certain diagnosis and best treatment plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule a follow-up <u>visit</u> by _____ (MM/DD/YY). Watch for any of the following symptoms that may change over time and concern you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <hr/> Consider additional tests/specialist referral(s) in the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <hr/> Keeping in touch: If any questions or concerns <u>arise</u> we encourage you to call us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <hr/> | | What Do I need to do when I get home? What is my Homework to get better? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| TIME FRAME FOR EXPECTED IMPROVEMENT: _____ Day(s); _____ week(s); _____ month(s); _____ unknown | | |
| I encourage you to review the visit notes. At Partners Healthcare you can access Open Notes in Patient Gateway portal. | | |