

# Diagnostic Error

MEDICINE'S SILENT EMERGENCY

## A Physician's Typical Day

Each patient is different



# 5%

of diagnoses are in **ERROR**\* translating to

**62 diagnostic errors** per physician per year

**18 MILLION** PRIMARY CARE  
**DIAGNOSTIC ERRORS** PER YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES

\*H Singh et al. The frequency of diagnostic errors in outpatient care: estimations from three large observational studies involving US adult populations, BMJ Qual Saf. 2014; Sep;23(9):727-31.

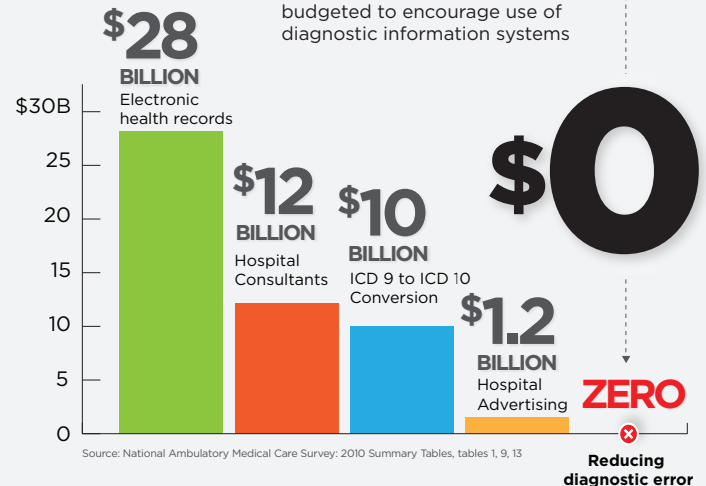
# 20

Average number of patient visits per day

# 34%

Percentage of visits involving a diagnostic question

Amount U.S. Government has budgeted to encourage use of diagnostic information systems



Physicians can memorize the most serious and most common diseases to speed care and spot emergencies. Complexity, variation and the sheer volume of patients make it impossible to handle every patient from memory.

**Complexity. Ambiguity. Variation.**

“Nearly every person will experience a **diagnostic error** in their lifetime”

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE SEPT 2015