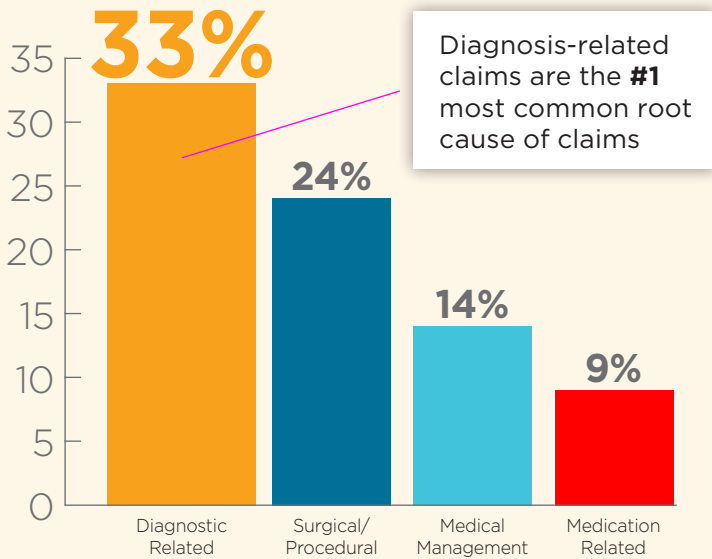


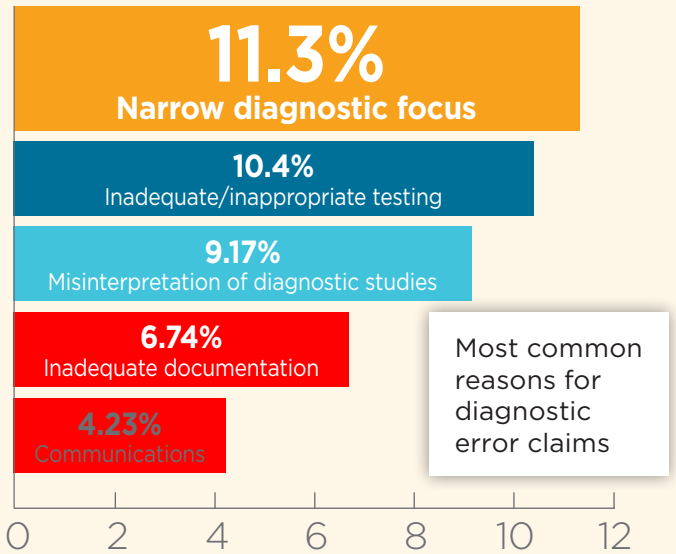
The Financial Risks of Diagnostic Errors¹

Diagnostic errors are one of the most serious problems plaguing the health care system today. These errors are harming patients and putting physicians and institutions at financial risk. The most common reason for these malpractice claims is having a narrow diagnostic focus, a problem that can be alleviated by utilizing diagnostic decision support systems. Such tools can reduce claims and payouts, which cost on average over \$300,000 in indemnity payments. Hospitals, emergency rooms, and clinics are not immune to these costly and harmful mistakes.

Top Medical Professional Liability Allegations



Top Risk Management Issues



DIAGNOSTIC ERROR CLOSED CLAIMS



47%

of indemnity payments were for diagnostic-related claims



54%

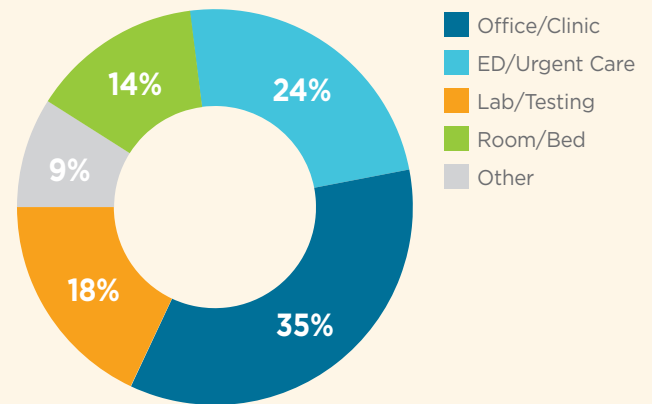
of diagnostic-related claims are high severity cases



36%

of diagnostic-related claims resulted in death

Event Locations



Percentage of Claims

“Improving the diagnostic process is not only possible, but it also represents a moral, professional, and public health imperative.”

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE SEPT 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use technology and decision-support tools
- Document any uncertainty in the EHR
- Provide the patient with well-written instructions
- Find ways to include the patient in decision-making

Reference: 1. Hanscom R, Small M, Lambrecht, A. Diagnostic Accuracy: Room for Improvement. Coverys website. https://coverys.com/PDFs/Coverys_Diagnostic_Accuracy_Report.aspx. Published March 2018. Accessed April 11, 2018. Data Selection: N=3508 closed PL claims from 2013-2017 with a Diagnosis-Related Allegation