

DIAGNOSTIC ERRORS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Are You Getting It Right?



67% of diagnostic-related malpractice events¹ in the **Emergency Department** involved one or more elements of clinical decision-making.

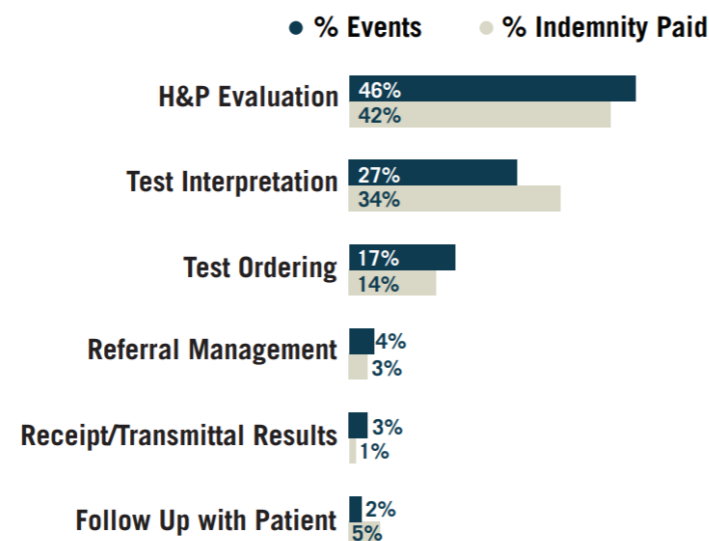
i Did You Know?

- Failure to obtain an adequate history and physical (H&P) is the most frequent contributor to diagnostic error.
- Misinterpretation of test results contributed to 27% of diagnostic-related events.
- More than half of these diagnostic-related events resulted in death or high-severity injury to the patient.

Don't Wait, Mitigate! Ask Yourself:

- Did I **get a complete picture** of the patient's chief complaint and history?
- Did I **include family members**, other providers, and review medical records in my assessment?
- Does the **radiologist have the clinical details** needed to correctly interpret the test?
- Did I **communicate and escalate** changes in patient status?

KEY VULNERABILITIES IN THE ED DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS



N=381 diagnostic-related events in the ED closed 2019-2023.

Access our ED
Diagnostic Error
White Paper



COVERYS®

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¹Coverys® evaluated 6,050 medical malpractice events that closed between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2023, and identified 436 specific events where a diagnostic error in the ED was alleged.

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