

A CHECKLIST for DIAGNOSIS

- Obtain YOUR OWN complete medical history
- Perform a focused, purposeful exam
- Generate an initial hypothesis (Differential Diagnosis) and differentiate these with additional history, physical exam and diagnostic tests.
- Take a “Diagnostic Time Out”
 - Was I comprehensive?
 - Did I consider the inherent shortcomings of using my intuition (heuristics)?
 - Was my judgment affected by bias?
 - Do I need to make the diagnosis now or can it wait?
 - What’s the worst case scenario? What are the “don’t miss” scenarios?
- Embark on the plan, but ENSURE FOLLOW-UP & FEEDBACK

Adapted from: *Developing Checklist to Reduce Diagnostic Error in the ED.*
Graber ML, Singh et al. 2014



High Risks Situation for Diagnostic Error

An affirmative response to any of these questions places you at greater risk for diagnostic error

- Did I just accept the first diagnosis that came to mind?*
- Was the diagnosis suggested by the patient, RN, or other MD?*
- Is there data about this patient I haven't obtained and reviewed?*
- Are there pieces that don't fit?*
- Was the patient handed off to me from a previous shift?*
- Was the patient seen in the ED recently for the same problem?*
- Could I have a bias regarding this patient?*
- Is there another care provider I should consult about this situation?*

How can I minimize my risk?

Take a "Diagnostic Time-Out!"

Pause to reflect: Does this make sense? What else could it be?

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Destination Zero