

## GOAL:

Utilize Canadian technologies to improve system performance

*Clinical Decision Support for Diagnostic Imaging*

## RECOMMENDATION

Invest \$9 million over three years to fund projects demonstrating clinical decision support tools for diagnostic imaging.

## WHAT IS CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT?

### REFERRING PHYSICIAN



## WHY DO WE NEED CDS?

- CDS systems are software platforms that integrate referral guidelines and clinical practice guidelines into physician workflows.
- These systems help to ensure that every patient gets the best test, at the right time, while contributing to the efficiency of health system resource allocation.
- When integrated into digital health infrastructure, CDS systems contribute to a data feedback loop that contributes to quality improvement and added value for patients and providers.
- Targeted investment in CDS would operationalize millions of dollars of investment already made by Canada Health Infoway and the provincial governments.

## FUNDING

There are existing pilot projects underway that demonstrate the value of these systems – targeted funding is needed to support them and to link them into a more robust clinical network. The CAR recommends that funding for CDS projects be administered through the Health Canada Health Care Policy Contribution Program, in line with the program’s mandate that contributions should be used to develop, implement, and disseminate knowledge, best practices and strategies for healthcare delivery.

*Clinical decision support tools for diagnostic imaging are a tangible demonstration of Choosing Wisely Canada’s core mandate: to reduce unnecessary tests, treatments, and procedures while helping physicians and patients make effective decisions to promote high-quality care. By integrating clinical guidelines to empower physicians to make evidence-based referrals, CDS pilot projects are an opportunity to evaluate and hone best practices to improve the patient experience, provide engagement with the tools, and create a framework for scalable, lasting solutions to health system challenges.*

Dr. Wendy Levinson, Chair, Choosing Wisely Canada



Canadian Association of Radiologists  
L'Association canadienne des radiologistes

The Canadian Association of Radiologists is the national voice of radiologists in Canada. Radiologists are physicians who specialize in interpreting the results of medical imaging produced by modalities such as MRI, CT, PET, and ultrasound. The CAR is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of care, promoting patient safety and helping radiologists contribute their expertise and value to patient care.