

The PATH to Improving Laboratory Measurements of Chronic Disease Biomarkers

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INTRODUCTION

- Laboratory tests are essential in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of chronic diseases. NACDD is collaborating with CDC, the Endocrine Society and the Partnership for the Accurate Testing of Hormones (PATH) in a partnership to improve the quality of laboratory measurements for chronic disease biomarkers.

PRIORITIES

- Develop strategies and activities to advance the quality of chronic disease laboratory tests for correct and timely diagnosis, treatment, and effective prevention.
- Establish and leverage partnerships to promote standardization that ensures test accuracy and reliability.

IMPACT

- PATH developed a strategic plan that advocates for the universal adoption of accuracy-based testing in medical practice and research to advance the development of standardized chronic disease biomarker tests.
- PATH members have developed a meeting session template for use in presentations about PATH at professional meetings and have encouraged device manufacturers and laboratories to develop and provide accurate and reliable tests. The PATH Steering Committee is working to broaden membership of PATH and is conducting outreach to potential new members.
- Workgroups to revise and update the PATH website, promote clinician education and public outreach are working to develop strategies to implement recommendations of the strategic plan.

OBJECTIVES

- To improve patient care and public health through the universal use of accurate and reliable biomarker tests in chronic disease healthcare and research.

OUTLOOK

A PATH Fact Sheet has been developed to help the public and clinicians understand the importance of standardized laboratory tests for chronic disease. The PATH website is being completely revised and updated for better communication to the public, clinicians, and insurers.