Better collaboration between **clinical and laboratory staff** may lead to a significant reduction of delays through a continuous improvement of processes. From the patient's point of view, the conversion of data into useful information is the only thing that counts.

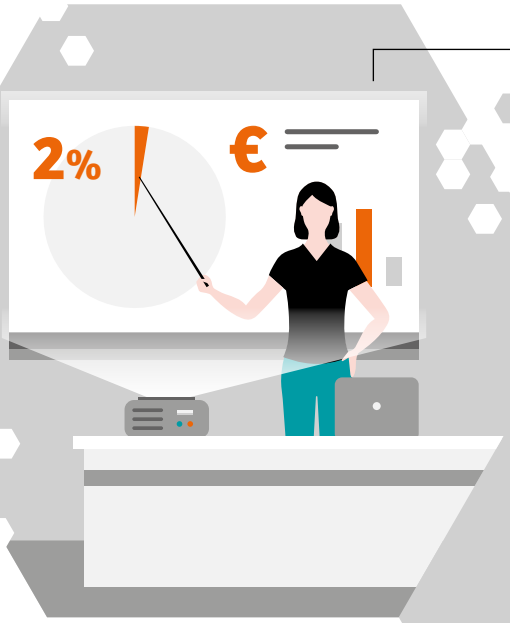
Improved Collaboration for Better Patient Care

Infographic: Jens Amende | Text: Roman Elsener

Diagnostics have moved far beyond the hospital. Together with data generated in clinics, information on the patient's lifestyle is becoming increasingly important. By collecting data intelligently, medical wearables are providing added value to healthcare.

Without access to laboratory diagnostics, health providers cannot **diagnose patients effectively and promptly, or provide appropriate treatments.** The WHO has therefore established a Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE IVD) for matters of global policies related to in vitro diagnostics (IVD). One of its first objectives is to make recommendations on the development of a model list of essential IVDs.

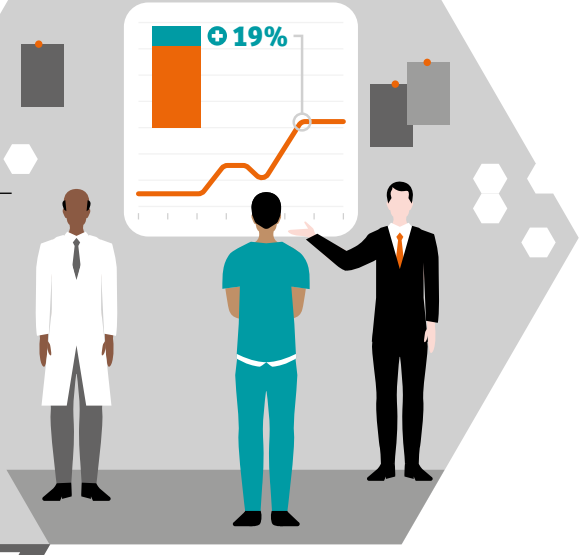
All online sources last accessed June 19, 2019
[1] https://www.aacc.org/health-and-science-policy/aacc-policy-reports/2015/laboratory-medicine-advancing-quality-in-patient-care
[2] https://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/m3v26k/point_of?w=12
[3] https://www.energiasmarketresearch.com/global-companion-diagnostics-market-report/

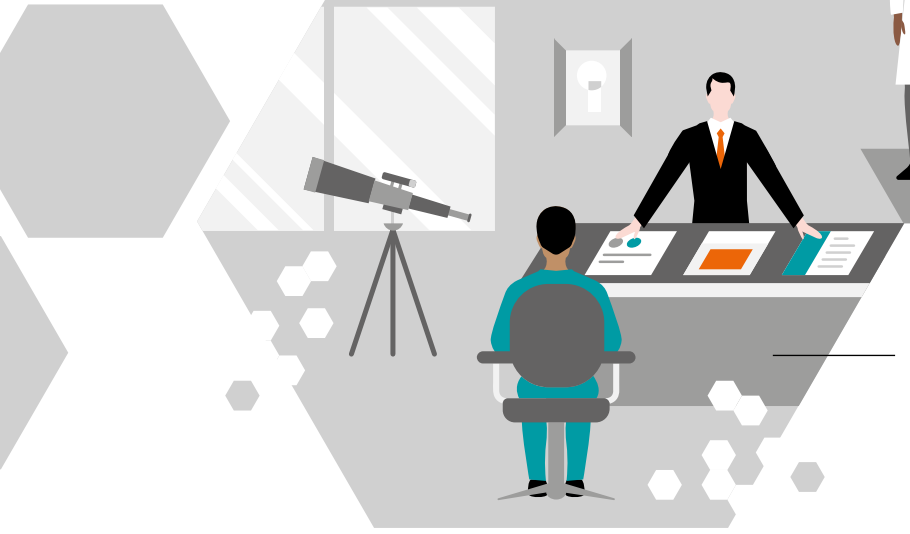


Despite its importance, spending for laboratory diagnostics accounts for only **1.4 to 2.3 percent** of overall healthcare expenditure.[1] Cost savings are often realized by consolidating lab sections in a core laboratory, or by individual labs serving different facilities. Ideally, an electronic health record connects all data about an individual to make them available to the treating physician.

The **global point of care (POC) diagnostics market** is expected to grow at a CAGR of **8 percent** from 2018 to reach **$30.9 billion by 2024**.[2] With many new players focusing on this market, laboratories and facility managers are coming under pressure to invest in new technologies. As a result, many are turning to collaborative lab design or are trying to improve collaboration between central labs and POC testing sites.

Diagnostics and therapy are being brought closely together by the increasing adoption of **companion diagnostics.** The global companion diagnostics market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 19 percent from 2019 to 2025,[3] attributed mainly to the rising prevalence of chronic diseases and the growing demand for personalized medicine.





Hospitals need to **integrate new technologies** constantly. For example, analyzing circulating tumor cells has improved cancer research and diagnosis. Laboratory medicine, supported by computerized information and expert systems, will contribute to the provision of better, more economical care.