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Hunter NL, O'Callaghan KM, Califf RM. JAMA. 2015 Dec 15;314(23):2499-500.

This Viewpoint discusses the conceptual framework of the Precision Medicine Initiative that could lead to improved health by more effectively matching medical products to the needs and preferences of patients and care partners.

The complex tasks of developing, evaluating, and determining the appropriate use of medical technologies occur in an evolving ecosystem of diverse stakeholders. However, as new medical therapies and diagnostics are designed and tested, the preferences and views of the patients and care partners who are most directly affected by these treatments are all too often overlooked. Individual patients often experience different effects of diseases and may have unique preferences about treatments or diagnostic procedures that differ from those of other patients or of their physicians or other health care practitioners; they may also have differing views about what

kinds and degrees of risk are tolerable. As patients weigh the balance of benefits and risks, their decisions are informed by their experiences, backgrounds, and personal circumstances. In addition, patients are no longer passive recipients of care; instead, they are empowered consumers of medical products and partners in the process by which those products are developed. Patients increasingly act as advocates for new treatments, and many are fully engaged in making decisions about their care.

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