

 <p>World Health Organization</p>  <p>Patient Safety</p>	<p>Global Experts' consultation</p> <p>Implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030: Pandemic and beyond</p> <p>5 – 8 December 2022, Geneva, Switzerland</p>
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Draft concept note

Background

The Seventy-second World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2019 adopted resolution (WHA72.6) “Global Action on Patient Safety” urging Member States to recognize patient safety as a key priority in health sector policies and programmes. The resolution reaffirms “the need to promote and improve patient safety across health systems at all levels, sectors and settings” and to “integrate and implement patient safety strategies in all clinical programmes and risk areas, to prevent avoidable harm to patients related to health care procedures, products and devices”. The resolution also urges Member States to assess and measure the nature and magnitude of the problem at all levels of health service delivery, that can be done through research initiatives and called to promote research, to support the provision of safer health services and long-term care”.

Considering the unprecedented challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created for the safety of health systems globally, and also in preparation for the 5th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety scheduled for February 2023 in Switzerland, WHO recently published a rapid review on “[Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for patient safety](#)” in collaboration with the Swiss Government. This rapid review explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on patient safety in terms of risks and avoidable harm, specifically related to diagnostic, treatment and care management issues, and identifies main patterns of those implications within broader health system context (Phase I). The rapid review demonstrates that safety risks and avoidable harm from the pandemic have been highly prevalent, and identifies specific areas to be addressed for ensuring safe provision of services within the context of the current pandemic and future pandemics. The review denotes that additional research is required to identify best practices and lessons learned to inform optimal interventions and recommend next steps.

Phase II of the project has been initiated to develop a strategic and operational guide ‘**Patient safety - central to pandemic preparedness, response and recovery: solutions for ensuring sustainable improvements**’ that will incorporate concrete solutions, actions and recommendations at policy, organizational and practice levels. To date, a systematic review has been conducted to identify solutions and interventions implemented by countries and partners during the COVID-19 pandemic response. A global experts’ consultation has been planned to be held on 5-8 December 2022, to present the findings of this review and reach a consensus on the outline and content of the guide.

The World Health Assembly in 2019 in [WHA72.6 Resolution ‘Global action on patient safety’](#) requested the WHO Director-General to formulate a Global Patient Safety Action Plan in

consultation with Member States and all relevant stakeholders. The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly in 2021 approved the [Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030](#), which provides a strategic direction and a list of suggested actions at policy and practice levels for all stakeholders to support their quest of eliminating avoidable harm in health care. [The WHA Decision WHA74 \(13\)](#) also requested the WHO Director-General to report back on the progress in its implementation to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in 2023 and thereafter every two years until 2031.

In this context, the first-ever Global Patient Safety Report is currently being developed for submission to the Assembly in early 2023. A Member State Patient Safety survey has recently been launched which will provide the basis for this report. The planned global experts' consultation would review the results of the ongoing Member State survey, seek experts' input on reporting the progress of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan implementation and results of the Member States survey to WHA in 2023, and consult them on the outline and content of the Global Patient Safety Report 2023.

Objectives of the global experts' consultation

1. Discuss the proposed operational guide on COVID-19 and patient safety
2. Review the progress of implementation of Global Patient Safety Action Plan including discussion on the Member States survey findings
3. Review the outline and draft content of the Global Patient Safety Report 2023

Expected outcomes

1. Consensus on the outline and content of the operational guide '**Patient safety - central to pandemic preparedness, response and recovery: solutions for ensuring sustainable improvements**'
2. Experts input on reporting the progress of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan implementation and results of the Member States survey to WHA
3. Consensus on the outline and content of the Global Patient Safety Report 2023

Participants

- Experts, advisors, researchers, academicians from all WHO regions with expertise in the topics related to the agenda of this global expert's consultation
- Patient Safety focal points from WHO Regional and Country Offices.
- Technical units with interest in areas of work related to patient safety at WHO HQ

Agenda

- Update on Global patient safety activities, milestones and achievements
- Update on regional and partner patient safety activities
- Covid-19 and Patient Safety
- Global Patient Safety Report 2023 and Member State survey
- Strategic discussion on accelerating efforts for patient safety globally