World Health Organization	**Focused group consultation** **Measurement tools for Medication Safety** **13–14 May 2019, WHO headquarters, Geneva**

Draft Concept Note

Organized by Patient Safety and Risk Management unit, WHO headquarters, Geneva

Introduction

The third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: *Medication Without Harm* was launched globally in 2017 with the goal to reduce severe, avoidable medication-related harm by 50% globally over the next 5 years. The scale and nature of this harm may vary across low-, middle- and high-income countries; however, these occur invariably during the medication use process, such as: prescribing, ordering, storage, dispensing, preparation, administration and/or monitoring.

The *Challenge* envisages to reduce burden of harm generated by unsafe practices and medication errors through working in four domains 1) patients and the public, 2) health care professionals, 3) medicines, and 4) systems and practices of medication; with priority action on polypharmacy, high-risk situations and transitions of care. Detailed interventions for each of these domains have been chalked out and are at various stages of design and implementation across countries.

As *the Challenge* implementation design is multipronged and dispersed in nature, it becomes imperative to design sophisticated measurement tools to objectively measure the progress and outcome of the interventions including the goal of the *Challenge* itself. WHO Patient Safety and Risk Management unit is developing multiple measurement products to strengthen the measurement framework under the Global Patient Safety Challenge, though some of these tools would be normative in nature and could be used beyond the ambit of *the Challenge* as global public goods. The proposed focused group consultation intends to facilitate in-depth technical discussion on drafted medication safety measurement tools, to refine and finalize these publications.

Background

WHO Patient Safety and Risk Management unit is working on following three measurement products for medication safety:

1. Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: *Medication Without Harm*

This document strives to provide an overarching framework with set of indicators that will be helpful to establish a baseline and measure the progress on medication safety initiatives at global, regional, national and healthcare facility level. Though the primary purpose of this document is to measure the progress of WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: *Medication Without Harm* , the framework would also help health systems to establish or incorporate one or more medication safety indicators, as relevant, in the existing health information system. Theses indictors could also be used by clinical teams to measure local improvement initiatives on medication safety. The Monitoring and Evaluation framework has three dimensions of measurement – Implementation, Coverage and Improvement.

Status of the product – Advance draft available

2. Medication Safety Assessment tool

As part of the Global Patient Safety Challenge, assessment tools are needed to assess the systems and practices of medication; enable safer medication practices, and monitor and evaluate the progress. WHO is working in collaboration with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) to produce assessment tools that can assess medication safety at different settings or levels of care. The assessment criteria have been identified either as core or advanced to allow systems with different levels of development to self-assess and improve. The first medication safety assessment tool focuses on medication safety at facility level which can also be used for rapid assessment as a part of creating a baseline. The assessment tool is aligned with the domains and sub domains of the *Challenge.*

Status of the product – Advance draft available

3. Point prevalence survey protocols for estimating preventable harm due to medication

There is persistent request from Member States for developing methodology for establishing baseline for harm due to unsafe medication practices specially in data poor settings without a of formal reporting or surveillance system. We are planning to develop point prevalence survey (PPS) protocols for estimating harm, drawing from existing best practices being used for PPS for estimating hospital acquired infection and AMR.

Status of the product –Proof of concept available. Requires further deliberations.

Participants

Up to 12 prominent experts on measurement and medication safety will be invited. These include experts already involved in developing these measurement tools, participants from previous consultations on monitoring and evaluation, experts from agencies which have

special interest in measurement agenda such as OECD, IHI and ISMP, representatives from national technical agencies having mature systems of measuring medication harm and other selected experts working in similar theme and thus could contribute to these products.

Objectives of the consultation

1. To critically review the advance drafts of M&E framework and medication safety assessment tools.
2. To share the best practices, existing tools and methodology for measurement of medication safety processes and outcomes.
3. To deliberate on point prevalence protocols for measuring medication-related harm.
4. To discuss the way ahead for global study to measure harm due to medications.
5. To discuss the field testing / piloting of tools if required.

Expected outcomes

1. Finalization of M&E framework and medication safety assessment tool to be submitted for publication.
2. Technical clarity on feasibility and methodology of point prevalence study protocols for medication-related harm.