



**World Health
Organization**

Consultative Meeting

**Planning for the very first World Patient Safety
Day 17 September 2019**

17-18 June 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Draft Concept Note

Introduction

“First, do no harm.” Ensuring patient safety during the provision of health care is foundational for a strengthened health care system. While universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals are urging WHO Member States to increase access to health care, its benefits will be undermined by service structures, care processes, cultures and/ or behaviours that inadvertently harm patients. Extending health care coverage must mean extending safe care. Unsafe care compromises overall public trust in health care systems, contributes to suboptimal care outcomes, lower patient satisfaction, and inefficiencies in health systems.

The global landscape of health care is evolving, and health systems operate in increasingly complex environments. While new treatments, technologies and care models can have therapeutic potential, they can also pose novel threats to safe care. Patient safety is now being recognized as a large and growing global public health challenge. Global efforts to reduce the burden of patient harm have not achieved substantial change over the past 15 years despite pioneering work in some health care settings. Safety measures – even those implemented in high-income settings – have had limited or varying impact, and most had not been adapted for successful application in LMIC.

It is estimated that 64 million disability-adjusted life years are lost every year because of unsafe care worldwide. This means that patient harm due to adverse events is likely to be one of the top 10 causes of death and disability in the world. Approximately two thirds of the global burden of adverse events resulting from unsafe care occurred in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Half of the global burden of patient harm originates from primary and ambulatory care, with as many as four out of 10 patients facing safety lapses in OECD countries. In contrast, estimates indicate that in high-income countries, about 1 in 10 patients is harmed while receiving hospital care.

Background

The 144th Executive Board endorsed the establishment of World Patient Safety Day (WPSD), to be observed annually on 17 September (under EB resolution E144.R12 “Global Action on Patient

Safety” which has been recommended to the 72nd WHA in May 2019 for adoption), in order to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding, and work towards global solidarity and action by Member States to promote patient safety. The resolution also: urges Member States to mark World Patient Safety Day in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; invites international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate with Member States in promoting and advocating patient safety initiatives; and requests the WHO Director-General to work with Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to promote WPSD.

WPSD aims to encourage development of systems and procedures for the elimination of avoidable health care related harm to patients, and management of risks in health care; and to encourage Member States to commit to and support the implementation of strategies for ensuring patient safety, managing risks and fostering supportive, learning cultures. Its objectives are to strengthen collaboration and partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels for implementing patient safety strategies and for improving safety in health care. Each year, specific patient safety themes will be identified, and a global campaign will be developed and disseminated accordingly. Potential patient safety themes can be categorized into systemic (e.g., patient engagement, patient safety culture, education and training in patient safety, reporting and learning systems) or programmatic topics (e.g., medication safety, injection safety, blood transfusion safety, radiation safety).

Consultative meeting

As a response to the establishment of the WPSD, a consultative meeting is being planned to be organized at WHO headquarters on 17-18 June 2019. The meeting will bring together major international partners, leading Member States in patient safety and all WHO regional offices on board to plan for the very first WPSD on 17 September 2019. The meeting will bring key stakeholders together to develop an effective campaign, plan key messages and target audiences, and discuss strategies for amplification and wider dissemination of the key messages, and for galvanizing the success of the campaign across the world. Planning for the global event, global theme, visual design and key messages for WPSD will be further discussed.

Participants

A total of around 35-40 participants will be invited to this meeting. Invited participants, include the Steering Committee members of the Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety, Member States from all WHO regions, representatives from key non-governmental organizations in the field of patient safety, patient representatives and patient organizations. WHO regional focal points on patient safety, WHO communications team and colleagues with experience in planning the WHO-mandated health days experience and WHO global campaigns will also be key participants.

Objectives of the meeting

1. Provide insights into the background of establishment of World Patient Safety Day
2. Identify key strategies and promotional activities to observe World Patient Safety Day globally
3. Agree on the very first WPSD campaign plan, with communication platforms, timelines on development and dissemination of the engaging and promotional activities and the communication materials
4. Develop the key strategies to amplify the theme and key messages of the campaign
5. Identify the output, outcome and impact of the campaign
6. Reinforce the commitment of all key stakeholders in advocating the annual WPSD by drumbeating and amplifying the theme and key messages of the campaign

Expected outcomes

1. Consensus on the theme of the day and the key messages for the global campaign of WPSD 2019
2. Development of key strategies to amplify the theme and identification of a list of communication materials for the WPSD 2019
3. Finalization of the first WPSD campaign plan, including a plan for promotional activities
4. Commitment of all participants for promoting and supporting World Patient Safety Day annually