

## Announcing World Patient Safety Day 2025 – Patient safety from the start!

World Patient Safety Day, observed annually on 17 September, is one of [WHO's global public health days](#). Established in 2019 by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly through resolution [WHA72.6 – “Global action on patient safety”](#). Rooted in the fundamental principle of medicine – “First do no harm”, its objectives are to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding and drive global action to improve patient safety. Each year, a new theme highlights a priority area requiring urgent and concerted efforts.

Ensuring safe care for patients is a fundamental priority, yet newborns and children remain especially vulnerable to patient safety risks. Although the reported incidence of adverse events in newborns and children receiving medical care varies, studies suggest that adverse events occur across all care settings, with higher risks in intensive care units. To bring attention to this critical issue, **‘Safe care for every newborn and every child’** has been selected as the theme for World Patient Safety Day 2025, emphasizing the need for stronger measures to protect children from preventable harm in health care. Strengthening safety in paediatric and newborn care is essential to achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goal 3.2 target of ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of five. It also aligns with global efforts such as the [‘Every Woman, Every Newborn, Everywhere Action Plan’](#), the [‘Child Survival Action Initiative’](#) and the [‘Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health 2016-2030’](#).

The Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030 recognizes paediatric and newborn safety across multiple strategic objectives, including designing safe clinical processes, strengthening health workforce competencies, engaging patients and families and establishing learning systems to prevent harm. It also calls for patient safety education, including a dedicated curriculum for older school-aged children, equipping them with essential knowledge on safety principles and self-advocacy in health care.

Under the slogan **‘Patient safety from the start!’**, WHO calls for urgent action to eliminate avoidable harm in paediatric and newborn care. Addressing this challenge requires comprehensive efforts across key patient safety areas, such as safe childbirth and postnatal care, medication safety, diagnostic safety, immunization safety, infection prevention and early recognition of clinical deterioration. World Patient Safety Day 2025 aims to drive meaningful improvements and reaffirm every child's right to safe and quality care.

### Objectives of World Patient Safety Day 2025

1. Raise global awareness of safety risks in paediatric and newborn care in all health care settings, emphasizing the specific needs of children, families and caregivers.
2. Mobilize governments, health care organizations, professional bodies and civil society to implement sustainable strategies, for safer care for newborns and children as part of broader patient safety and quality initiatives.
3. Empower parents, caregivers and children in patient safety by promoting education, awareness and active participation in care.
4. Advocate for strengthening research on patient safety in paediatric and newborn care.

### Working together to make health care safer

World Patient Safety Day 2025 proposes a wide range of activities to be organized on and around 17 September. The signature mark of the campaign – lighting up iconic monuments, landmarks and public places in the colour orange – will continue. WHO encourages all stakeholders to join the global campaign and light up the world in orange on 17 September as we work together to promote safer health care for children worldwide.

For more details, visit the [WHO World Patient Safety Day 2025 event page](#) and [WHO Patient Safety website](#).

For further enquiries, please contact: [patientsafety@who.int](mailto:patientsafety@who.int).