





Improving diagnostic safety and implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030

10th – 12th September 2024 Geneva, Switzerland







Address by the Assistant Director General

Dr Bruce AYLWARD
Assistant Director-General
WHO Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland











Session 3 Charting the path to diagnostic excellence





Chairperson
Sir Liam DONALDSON
WHO Envoy for
Patient Safety
WHO headquarters
Switzerland



Co-chairperson
Helen HASKELL
President, Mothers
Against Medical
Error USA











Recap of Day 1

Dr Irina PAPIEVA
Technical Officer/Lead a. i.
Patient Safety Flagship,
Integrated Health Services
WHO Headquarters
Switzerland













Unlocking the concept of diagnostic safety

- Complex, cross-cutting concept that is fundamental to the very core of health care – yet often an overlooked aspect of patient safety
- ➤ Correct, timely (missed or delayed) diagnosis, and properly communicated diagnosis is the first step to appropriate interventions and effective treatment.
- ➤ It's about people, but also technology: the interface between human beings and technology (balance, reliability, trust) and the role of Al
- Main causes: systemic challenges (access to care, diagnostics, competent workforce), communication issues, cognitive biases
- Every step in the diagnostic process is vulnerable to errors





What does diagnostic safety mean to us

- ➤ It concerns everybody and multiple stakeholders should be involved in improving diagnostic safety
- ➤ Different perspectives one truth:
- Patients: listening and unfolding experiences, sharing data
- Health workers: competencies, teamwork and communication
- Organizational leaders: enabling environment (including transparency and safety culture), efficient and effective processes
- Policy makers: design of the system, resources, prioritization
- WHO: health system strengthening lens while maintaining the focus areas (TB, ageing, health workforce, diagnostics)





State of Science

- ➤ Diagnostic errors are a major source of preventable patient harm in health care yet little is known about the paradigm (including burden) in LMICs
- Knowledge and research gaps:
 - Sources of data
 - Settings and contexts
 - The scope and effectiveness of interventions
 - Measurement and monitoring of implementation progress
- > Economic impact of diagnostic errors
- ➤ The role of human factors in addressing cognitive biases and improving overall system design





Key considerations for the way forward

- > Shared mental model: patient safety is not the absence of harm but the presence of safety, diagnostic safety is fundamental to patient safety
- Achieving diagnostic excellence: minimal resources, effective, efficient and feasible evidence-based interventions that maximize patient experiences and outcomes, and help to manage and communicate uncertainty to patients
- > Investment in research: settings, diseases, effectiveness of interventions
- > Focus on measurement and monitoring progress
- Learning from aviation: safety first
- ➤ Making the change implies profound systemic challenges:
- Across several domains: patients, health workforce, systems and processes, diagnostics and technology
- At different levels: policy, organizational and point-of-care
- With a focus on building learning systems





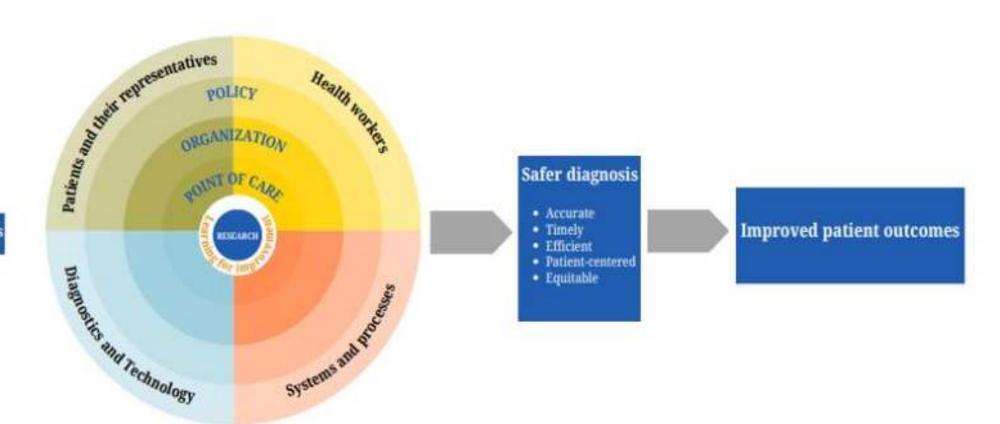
What do we know and what do we still have to learn?

- > The attributes and causes of diagnostic errors
- ➤ The key factors to be addressed if we want to reduce the burden of diagnostic errors and the kay players
- The colour theme of World Patient Safety Day
- Where to find information about World Patient Safety Day https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-patient-safety-day/world-patient-safety-day-2024
- Whom to contact in WHO for any questions related to patient safety patientsafety@who.int
- > WHO Patient Safety Flagship team (who dives and who eats Indian food)
- ➤ We know each other better: key subject matter experts, patient advocates, country representatives, professional organizations, WHO leadership, regional focal points and technical teams





What do you think about the proposed implementation model for improving diagnostic safety?



Implementation strategies

Group Presentations

By Rapporteurs from the four groups













Diagnostic Safety-Implementation model

Reporting back by groups

Group No.1: Healthcare worker









1. Are the proposed attributes of diagnostic safety comprehensive and relevant to all health care settings?

- General reflections:
 - Diagnostic accuracy is not static, but a continuous process
 - The attributes are not mutually exclusive
 - We did not consider whether the attributes are measurable





- 1. Are the proposed attributes of diagnostic safety comprehensive and relevant to all health care settings?
- Accuracy
- Timely → Well-timed
- Efficiency
- Patient centered
- Equitable
- Collaborative
- Ethical
- Sufficiency





- 2. What do you think of the implementation model in terms of structure, relation between different elements and completeness?
- A lot of discussion and little agreement:

Consider:

- Should there be a 'just culture' component as a prerequisite for implementation of any intervention?
- Should the attributes in this model be pillars of diagnostic safety, as they are not measurable.





- 3. What do you think of the proposed interventions. Are they comprehensive, feasible and do they cover all elements within the specific domain and level of implementation?
- Great set of interventions, but there are always more.
- Important to contextualize and prioritize:
 - Country
 - Setting
- General suggestion: Make the language more actionable:
 - Promote → Practice
 - Provide → Ensure





- 4. Are there any best practices or innovative approaches that can be incorporated into the framework?
- Many can be implemented but it is important to contextualize

- Evaluate, measure and improve
- Clear need for more research!





Diagnostic Safety-Implementation model

Reporting back by groups

Group No. 2: Patient and family engagement









1. Are the proposed attributes of diagnostic safety comprehensive and relevant to all health care settings?

- The group believes they don't include the elements of the Strategic
 Objective 4 of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030
- The attributes were written from the perspective of the providers/policymakers rather than from the patient perspective
- The group noted lack of patient self-diagnosis and care at home
- We also missed the risk of inequity bias
- Needs to explicit that screening is not included





- 2. What do you think of the implementation model in terms of structure, relation between different elements and completeness?
- There is a lack of patient agency throughout the document.
- We would like to see more collaborative working and coproduction.
- The group concluded that the diagram made the process look too industrialized and tidy.





- 3. What do you think of the proposed interventions. Are they comprehensive, feasible and do they cover all elements within the specific domain and level of implementation?
- The final layer of interventions concerning patients and patient advocates is meant "to" patients and not what patients can actually do to improve patient safety, e.g. providing accurate information and actively following up on results.
- Some of the interventions should be co-created with patients instead of for patients.





4. Are there any best practices or innovative approaches that can be incorporated into the framework?

- IOM Checklist and toolkit.
- Positive patient identification.
- Secure first 60 seconds for patient: not interrupting patients for 60 seconds.
- Rapid review access.





Diagnostic Safety-Implementation model

Reporting back by groups

Group 3.: Systems & Processes









1. Are the proposed attributes of diagnostic safety comprehensive and relevant to all health care settings?

- O Should evidence-based be incorporated into the criteria for safer diagnosis
 - This could also be rolled up into the accuracy criteria.
 - Evidence can be biased—RCTs often exclude the most vulnerable
 - Efficiency could also be linked to evidence (doing what is most practical)
- Should we start before a patient presents with a problem—inform the population of when we they may have a problem→ related to pre-care and access
- "Patient-centred" could be "People-centered" and/or "Patient & Family-Centred"
- People-centred extends beyond the disease
 - OECD domains of people-centred—Voice, choice, co-production, integration, and experience
 - Context and environmental and social factors beyond the clinical diagnosis
- O An alternative outcome of diagnosis can be a non-diagnosis depending on patient context and preferences
- O Relevant to all health care settings





2. What do you think of the implementation model in terms of structure, relation between different elements and completeness?

- O Where is the role of leadership?
 - Cuts across should use the table with the diagram together, they complement each other
- O Focus on processes (routine activities) vs. thinking and evaluation
- O Take out the circle? Simplify to a set of directions for implementing the various intervention.
- Add (at the first arrow)
 - Barriers and facilitators (leadership also could be here).
 - Resources/financing
 - Governance and legal environment
- Broaden outcomes (broader, patient, social outcomes, equity, efficiency, environmental, health system improvement → feedback into the system).
- O Add Monitoring and Evaluation (at second arrow) from multiple perspectives (including, e.g. PROMs and PREMs, etc)





- 3. What do you think of the proposed interventions. Are they comprehensive, feasible and do they cover all elements within the specific domain and level of implementation?
- Add integrated component (reduce duplication) to workflow
- Communication between organisations
- Improved referral systems.
- Use of PREMs and PROMs related to diagnostic safety (policy level to develop, and org. to use them).
- Mechanisms to collect and share mechanisms of patient safety, including from the patient perspective
- Data on timeliness





3. What do you think of the proposed interventions. Are they comprehensive, feasible and do they cover all elements within the specific domain and level of implementation?

- Add education of health care workers
- Add setting standards for diagnosis processes (regulation) → link with non-punitive culture
- Learning systems in place
- Good governance, resolution for conflicts of interest.
- Secondary use of data for patient safety monitoring
- Policies to tackle fragmentation of care
- Polies to promote and integrate health data and data infrastructure.
- Cross border treaties and infrastructure to standardise incident reporting.
- Return on investment for patient safety—justify the study (how long it takes to pay off).
- Establish legal safeguards for health workers (related to disclosing diagnostic errors)
- Safeguards for diagnostic process to avoid misdiagnosis (checklist or some other tool).





- 3. What do you think of the proposed interventions. Are they comprehensive, feasible and do they cover all elements within the specific domain and level of implementation?
- Optimizing teamwork includes patients/families
- Team/integrated involvement preferable to "second opinion" which can threaten timeliness, e.g. multidiscip tumour board
- Add escalation of referrals to higher levels into process
- Cancer screening should be broadened to include other
- Measures of timeliness, e.g. sepsis clock





4. Are there any best practices or innovative approaches that can be incorporated into the framework?

See slide 3





Diagnostic Safety -Implementation model

Reporting back by groups

Group No. 4: Diagnostics and Technology









- 1. Are the proposed attributes of diagnostic safety comprehensive and relevant to all health care settings?
- Collaborative
- Safe
- Local Context Sensitive
- Evidence-based
- Patient-Centered: Evidence based / Communicated to patient





- 2. What do you think of the implementation model in terms of structure, relation between different elements and completeness?
- Research in the Center (Can we move out)
- How to show that it is Patient-Centered?
- HFE to be Cross Cutting
- Macro / Meso / Micro (Point of Care!)
- How can it show feedback loops?

Note: to have HFE expert to look the model and give suggestions





- 3. What do you think of the proposed interventions. Are they comprehensive, feasible and do they cover all elements within the specific domain and level of implementation?
- Healthcare Leadership Interventions
- Healthcare Financing Interventions
- Need to go beyond the assumption that EHR exists in all settings (LMIC)





Interventions Concerning Technology		
Policy	Organizational level	Point of care
Ensuring national oversight of EHR's	Deploying and maintaining	Using EHR's to their full
and Al	an EHR	advantage
Ensuring national oversight,	Best Practices in EHR	
protection, and useability of EHR's	Implementation (Change	
and Al	Management)	
Establishing national telemedicine	Enabling telemedicine and	Using telemedicine and
resources and policies	promoting its use	patient portals
Providing research funding for	Providing patient portals and	Using decision support tools,
technology development and testing	access to their data	including AI tools
HTR	HTA	
	Using trigger tools to monitor	
	test follow-up	
ADD:		
 Using Technology Interventions 		
for HIM Systems		
 Data Sharing & HIE Policies 		





4. Are there any best practices or innovative approaches that can be incorporated into the framework?

Clinical Auditing

Discussion and Q and A

Moderator Helen HASKELL President, Mothers **Against Medical** Error USA













Patient Safety: the communication science perspective

Prof Annegret HANNAWA

Director, Center for the Advancement
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Faculty of Communication, Culture &
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Italy













Communication is our most innate safety process.







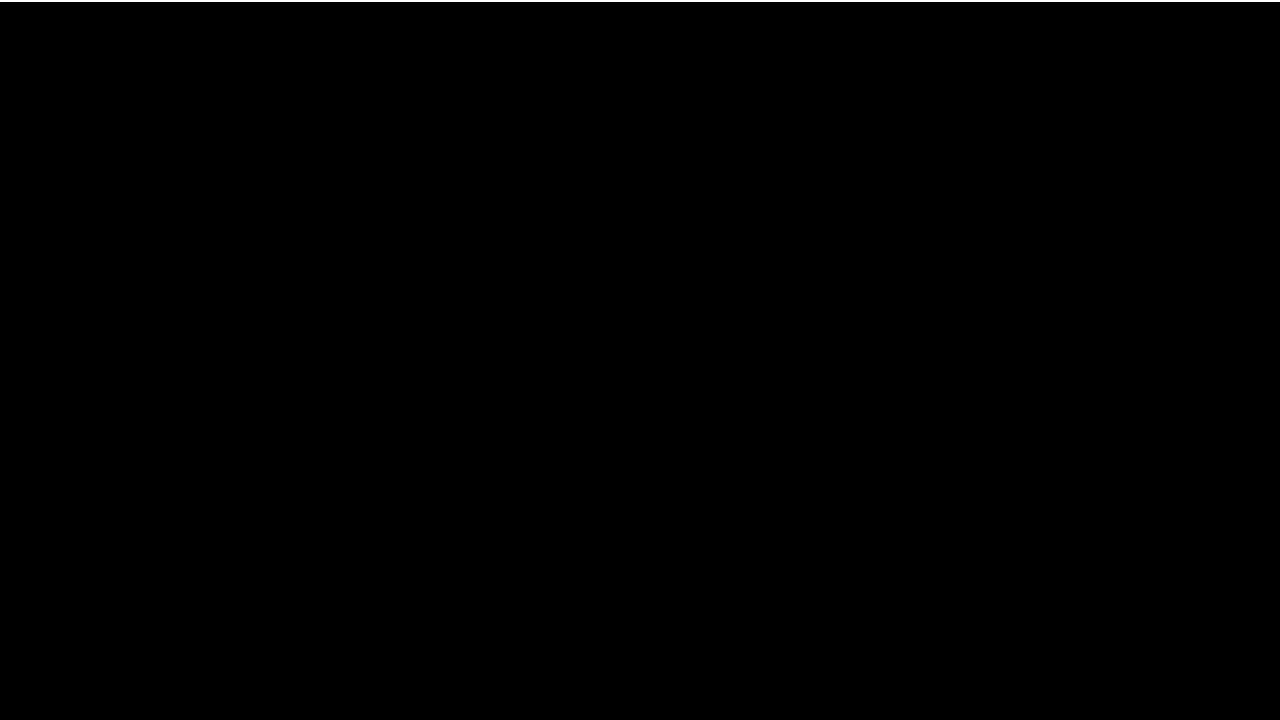




























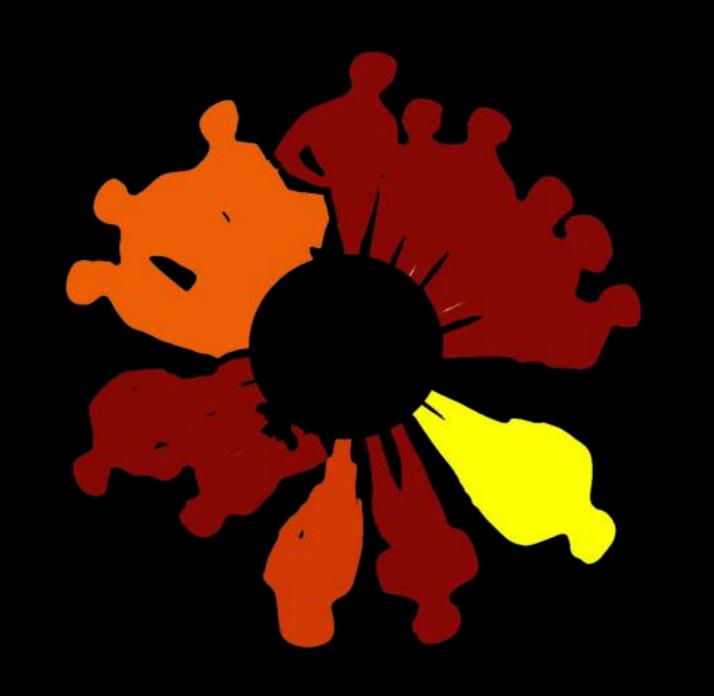


We must use our communication to come out clearer on the other end.



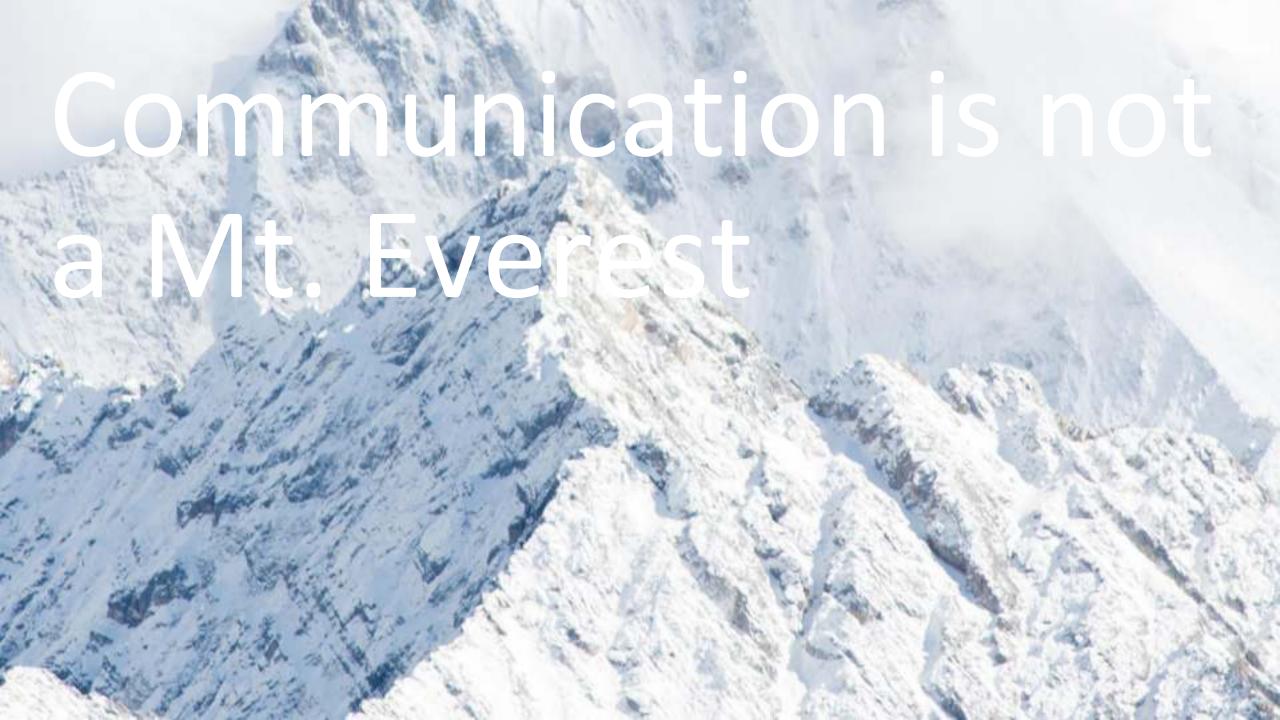
Communication

Is the most powerful resource we have.

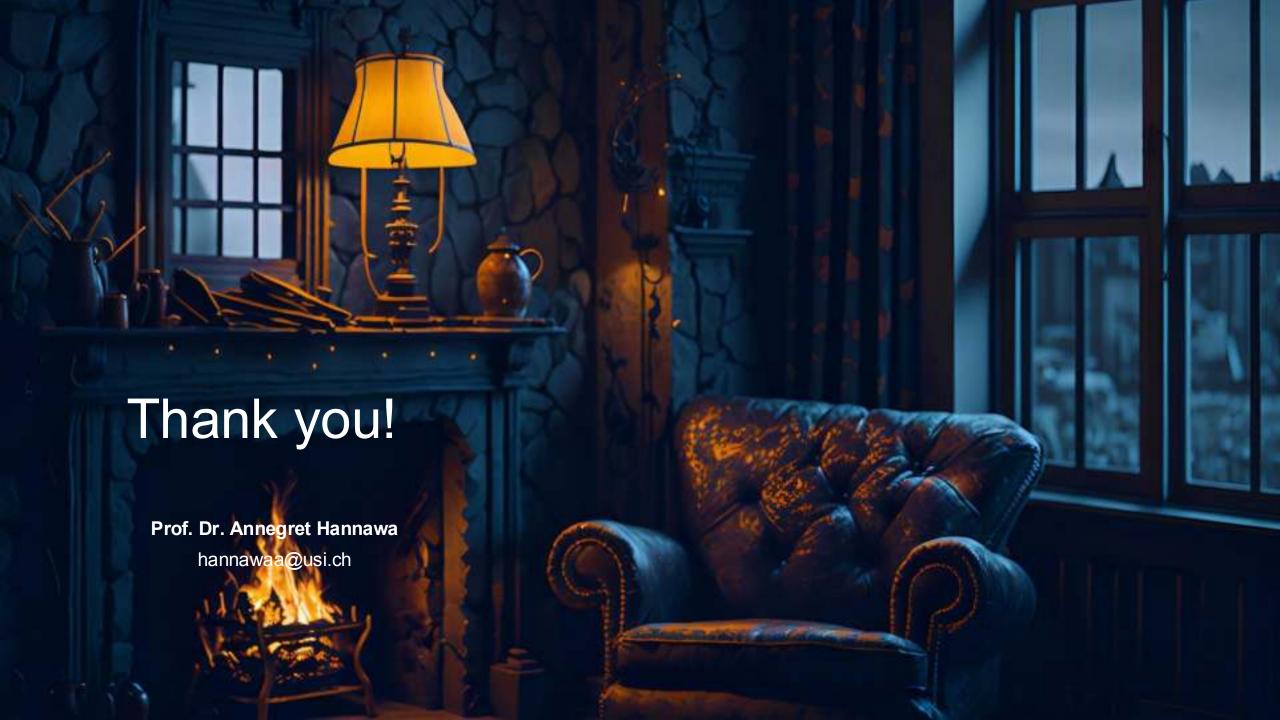
















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Improving diagnostic safety and implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030

10th – 12th September 2024 Geneva, Switzerland







Session 4 - The path to safer care: Implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan (GPSAP) 2021-2030





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Co-chairperson
Ms Sue SHERIDAN
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Implementing the GPSAP 2021-2030













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Dr. Priyadarshani Galappatthy WHO consultant PSF/IHS WHO HQ













WHO Patient Safety Flagship Programme











Global Patient Safety
Action Plan 2021 -2030

World Patient Safety Day

Global Patient Safety
Challenge
Medication Without Harm

Global Patient
Safety
Collaborative

Technical guidance and tools to improve patient safety

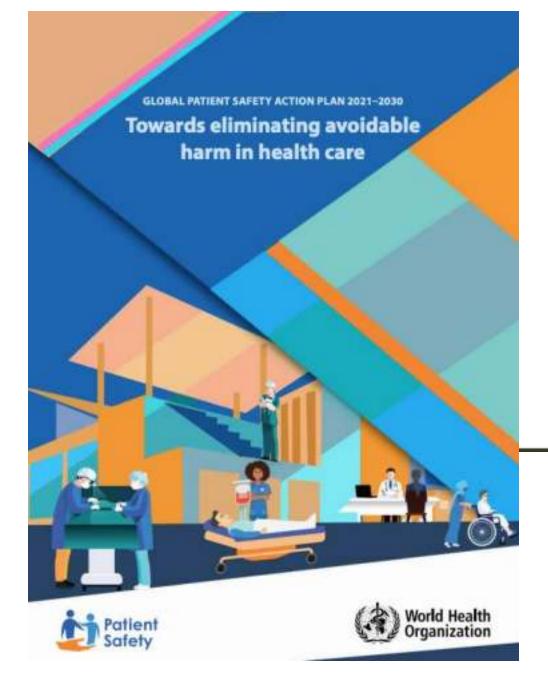




72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) May 2019



- ✓ Adopted WHA resolution on Global action on patient safety (WHA72.6)
- ✓ Recognized Patient Safety as a global health priority
- ✓ Established an annual World Patient Safety Day on 17 September
- ✓ Formulate a **Global Patient Safety Action Plan**, aligned with SDGs





SEVENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY Agenda item 13.1

WHA74(13) 31 May 2021

Global action on patient safety

The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, having considered the consolidated report by the Director-General.¹

Decided:

- to adopt the global patient safety action plan 2021–2030;
- (2) to request the Director-General to report back on progress in the implementation of the global patient safety action plan 2021–2030 to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in 2023 and thereafter every two years until 2031.

Seventh plenary meeting, 31 May 2021



Launch of Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030

4 August 2021







Drive forward policies, strategies and actions based on science, patient experience, system design and partnerships to eliminate all sources of avoidable risk and harm to patients and health workers



Achieve the maximum possible reduction in avoidable harm due to unsafe health care globally



A world in which no one is harmed in health care, and every patient receives safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere



GPSAP 2021-2030: Strategic Objectives



Strategic Objective 4

Patient and family engagement

Strategic Objective 3

Safety of clinical processes

Strategic Objective 2

High-reliability systems

Strategic Objective 1

Policies to eliminate avoidable

harm in health care

Strategic Objective 5

Health worker education, skills and safety

Strategic Objective 6

Information, research and risk management

Strategic Objective 7

Synergy, partnership and solidarity







Framework for Action - The 7x5 Matrix



1	Policies to eliminate avoidable harm in health care	1.1 Patient safety policy, strategy and implementation framework	1.3 Resource mobilization and allocation	1.3 Protective legislative measures	1.4 Safety standards, regulation and accreditation	Norld Patient Safety Day and Global Patient Safety Challenges
2 🔯	High-reliability systems	2.5 Transparency, openness and No blame culture	2.2 Good governance fur the health care system	2.3 Leadership capacity for clinical and managerial functions	2.4 Human factors/ ergonomics for health systems, resilience	2.5 Patient safety in emergencies and settings of extreme adversity
3	Safety of clinical processes	3.1 Safety of risk-prone clinical procedures	3.2 Global Patient Safety Challenge Medication Without Name	3.3 Infection prevention and control & antimatrolial resistance	3.4 Salinty of medical devices, medicines, blood and vaccines	5.5 Patient safety in primary care and transitions of care
4	Patient and family engagement	4.1 Co-development of policies and programmes with patients	4.2 Learning from pattern experience for safety improvement	4.3 Patient advocates and patient safety champions	4.4 Patient safety incident disclosure to victims	4.5 Information and education to potients and families
5	Health worker education, skills and safety	5.1 Patient safety as professional education and training	5.2 Centres of excellence for patient safety oducation and training	5.3 Patient safety competencies as regulatory requirements	5.4 Linking patient safety with oppraisal system of health workers	5.5 Safe working envirsoment for health workers
6	Information, research and risk management	6.1 Patient safety incident reporting and learning systems	6.2 Patient salety information systems	6.3 Patient safety surveillance systems	6.4 Patient safety research programmes	6.5 Digital technology for patient safety
7 🕼	Symergy, partnership and solidarity	2.1 Stakeholders engagement	7.2 Common understanding and shared commitment	7.5 Patient safety networks and collaboration	7.4 Cross geographical and multisectoral initiatives for patient safety	7.5 Alignment with technical programmes and initiatives



Modes of implementation







GPSAP 2021-2030: Monitoring implementation progress





Global patient safety report 2024



Member State survey analysis:

- Performance on various indicators linked with strategic framework of GPSAP
- Compilation and description of actions taken by countries
- Summary of progress across WHO regions and income levels

Burden of Unsafe Health care:

- Evidence on overall burden of unsafe practices
- Analysis within specific population groups, clinical domains, and major sources of harm

Case Studies:

- Examples of countries developing patient safety solutions
- Feature stories on global initiatives and interventions

Comparative Analyses:

- Insights into patient safety policies and legal frameworks
- Patient engagement and educational initiatives
- Reporting and learning systems
- Stakeholder involvement

Strategic Objective 1

Policies to eliminate avoidable harm in health care

Make zero avoidable harm to patients a state of mind and a rule of engagement in the planning and delivery of health care everywhere





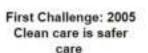


Strategic Objective 1: Key implementation areas

- Policy dialogue, policy and strategy development and implementation: structured support to countries (e.g., GPSC) vs individual requests; dedicated PS strategies vs integrated approaches
- > Resource mobilization: global level
- > Supportive legislation and regulatory frameworks: bespoke support to the countries
- > Safety standards, regulation and accreditation: policy briefs, technical series, working documents
- ➤ Global initiatives: World Patient Safety Days, Global Patient Safety Challenges

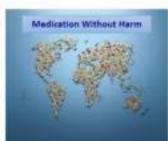








Second Challenge: 2007 Safe Surgery Save Lives



Third Challenge: 2017 Medication without Harm

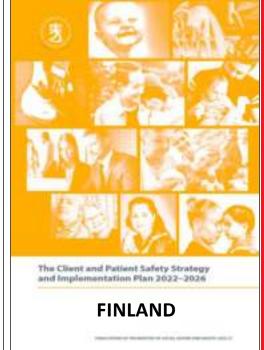


NATIONAL POLICY ON
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY



NEPAL PATIENT SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2022–2030









The NHS Patient Safety Strategy

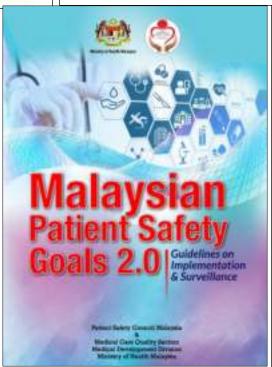
Safer culture, safer systems, safer patients

July 2019

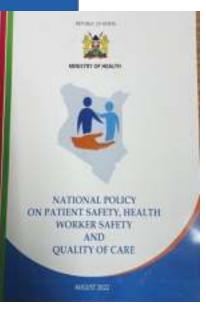
Impact at national level

NHS England and NHS Improvement











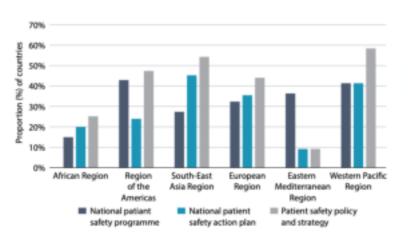
29%

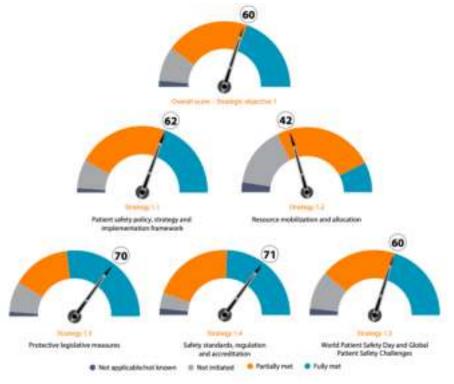
Countries
have developed
a national patient
safety action plan or
equivalent

"Patient safety is a policy priority for most with some early implementers though grossly underinvested"

80%

World Patient Safety Day Countries launched a national campaign on World Patient Safety Day





Key findings



Patient safety is a national priority for most



32% countries have a patient safety program



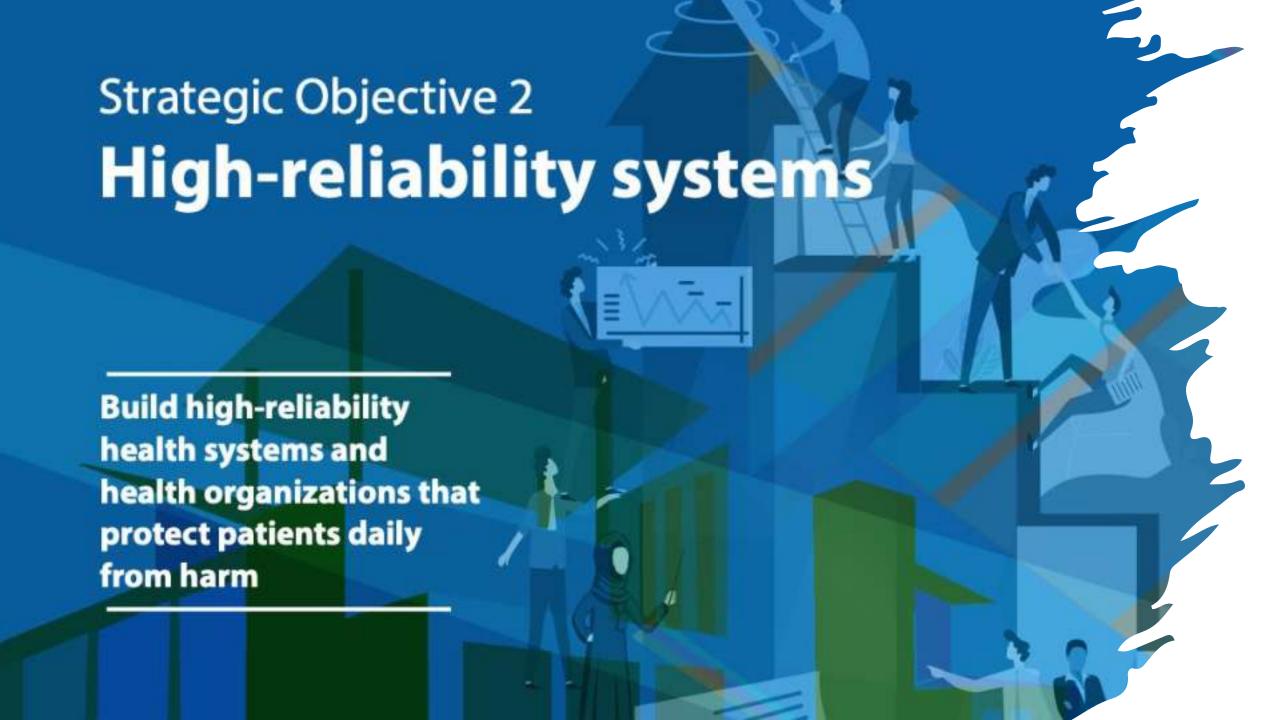
Only 11% countries have adequate finances



Half of the countries have safety standards



31% countries are implementing all Global Patient Safety Challenges

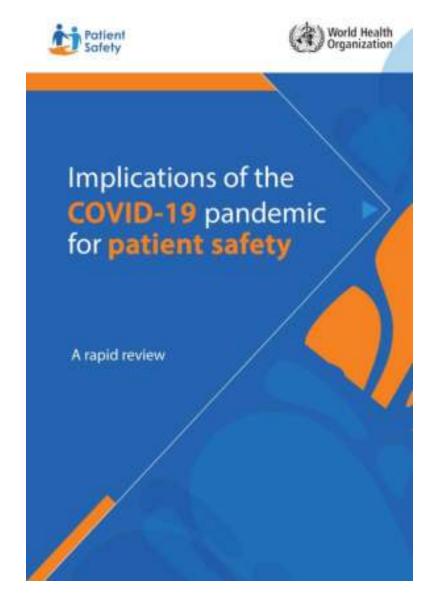






Strategic Objective 2: Key implementation areas

- Transparency, openness and no blame culture: technical guidance (PS MIMs, PS Incident reporting and learning systems, Safety Culture guidance and assessment tool), policy dialogue, and targeted support to countries
- Good governance for the health care systems: advocacy and policy support
- Leadership capacity for clinical and managerial functions: technical guidance (Leadership Competency framework for Patient safety), bespoke support to the countries for policy action and competency development
- Human factors/ergonomics for health systems resilience: technical guidance (WHO-IEA practice guidance on applying human factors for patient safety), advocacy and policy dialogue
- ▶ Patient Safety in emergencies and settings of extreme adversity: advocacy (policy brief), research (Rapid review on implication of the COVID-19 pandemic for patient safety) and technical guidance (operational guidance on addressing patient safety in outbreaks and emergencies)



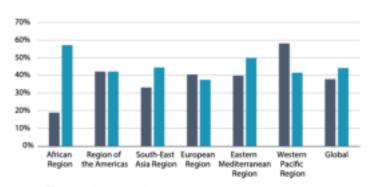


38%

Countries have implemented a system for reporting of never events

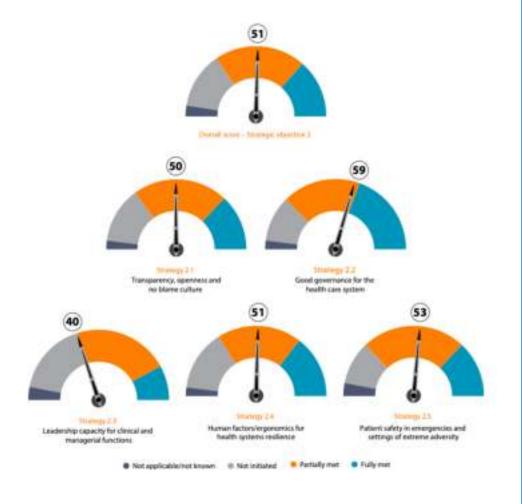
52%

Countries have appointed a national patient safety officer (or equivalent)



- A system for reporting of never events (or sentinel events) is operational
- Reportable never events (or sentinel events) have been defined

"We have solid foundation to evolve safety culture and high reliability systems"



Key findings



Only 26% have mechanism for blame free reporting



Structural safety norms are not completely enforced in half the countries



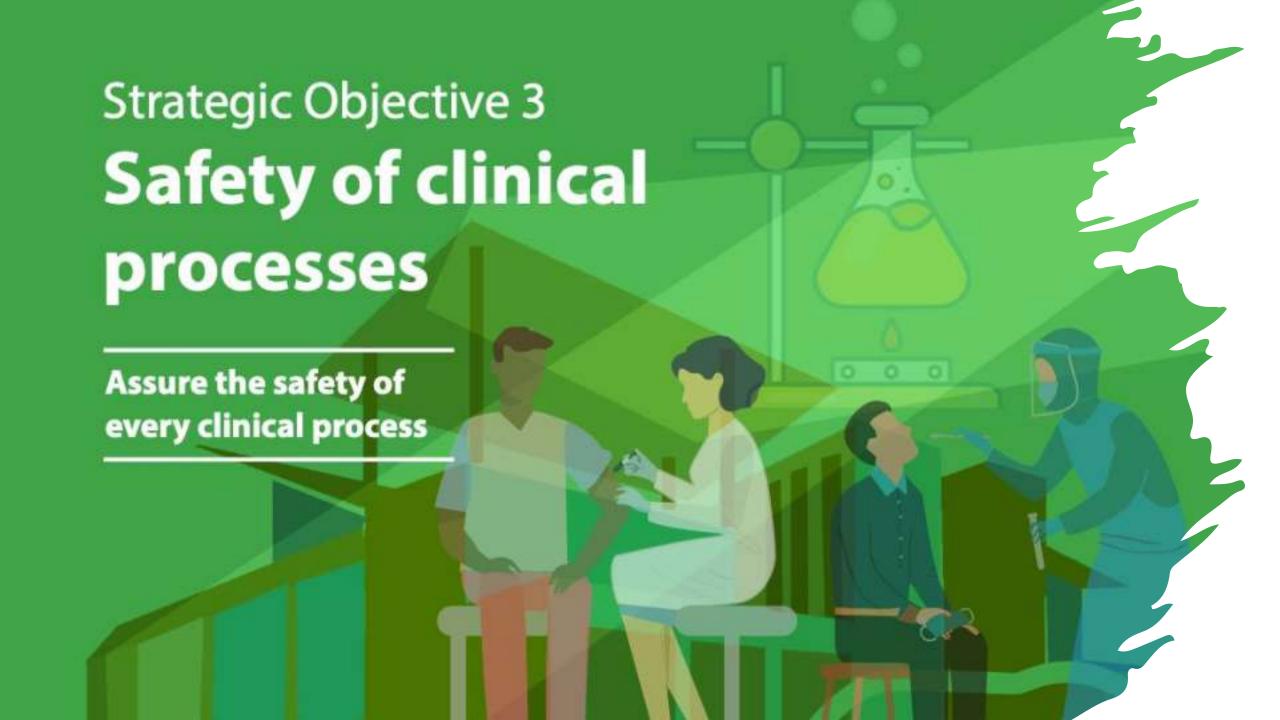
Only 25% conducts regular rehearsal (mock drills)



23% countries conducting regular safety culture survey



38% have established institutional framework



Almost 50% of preventable patient harm is related to medications and therapeutic interventions.

One in 20
patients globally
experience
preventable
medication
related harm in
medical care

A quarter of preventable harm is considered severe or lifethreatening

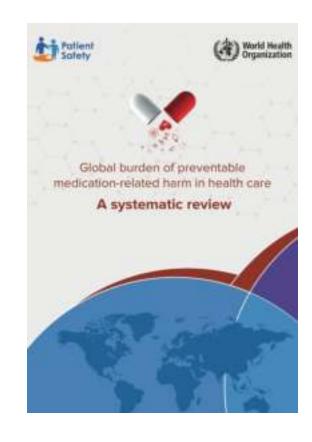
Prevalence, severity, and nature of preventable patient harm across medical care settings: systematic review and meta-analysis

Maria Panagioti, ¹ Kanza Khan, ¹ Richard N Keers, ² Aseel Abuzour, ² Denham Phipps, ² Evangelos Kontopantelis, ¹ Peter Bower, ¹ Stephen Campbell, ¹ Razaan Haneef, ³ Anthony J Avery, ⁶ Darren M Ashcroft ¹

thebmj | BMJ 2019;366:14185 | doi: 10.1136/bmj.14185

Preventable medication harm across health care settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Hodkinson et al. BMC Medicine (2020) 18:313 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-020-01774-9





GLOBAL LAUNCH

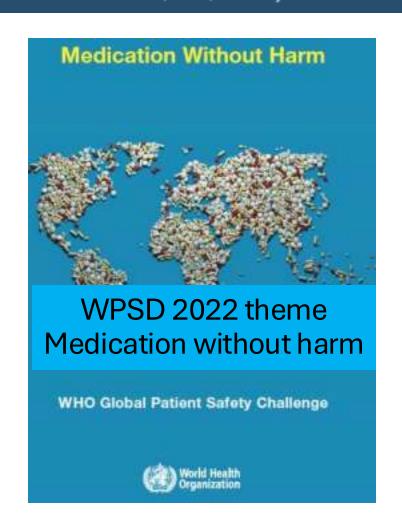
GLOBAL PATIENT SAFETY CHALLENGE ON MEDICATION SAFETY

World Health Organization

29 March 2017, Bonn, Germany



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Strategies to support the Global Patient Safety Challenge: *Medication Without Harm*

Technical resources and tools

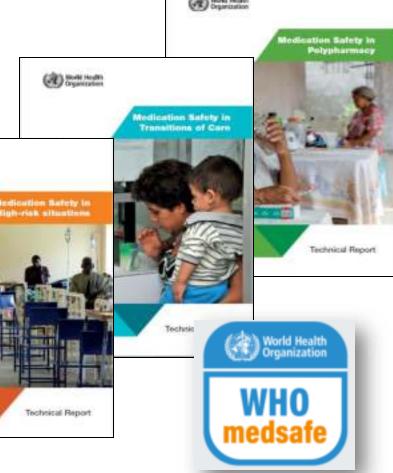
(A) their mate

 Medication safety webinar series

Medication safety for

medicines

A Cartina









Medication safety campaign KNOW.CHECK.ASK

Country support for the Medication Without Harm Challenge

• Capacity building visits to 'demonstration sites on medication safety'
Within the frames of the WHO Global Patient Safety Collaborative (GPSC)









Supporting GPSC countries for medication safety activities — India, Pakistan, Mongolia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka

Upcoming technical products to support the *Challenge*

- Medication safety in perioperative care
 - jointly with World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA)
- Medication safety in maternal and newborn care
- Medication safety assessment tool
- Medication safety curriculum guide

Medication safety network for sharing information, a sub- group of GPSN





21%

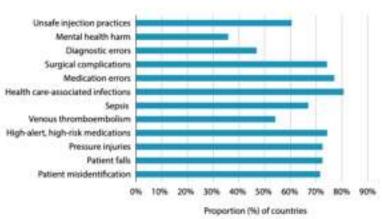
countries
have established
target for reduction
in medication
related harm

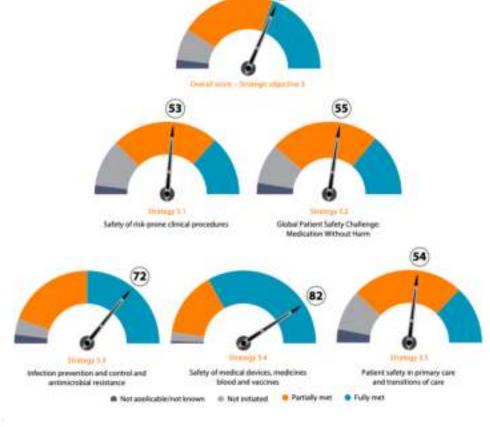
"Global Patient Safety Challenges have been instrumental in triggering clinical safety programs in countries"



38%

countries
have established
target for reduction
in Heath care
associated
infections (HAIs)





Key findings



HAIs and medication errors are priority areas for most of countries



Mental health and palliative care are least addressed areas for patient safety



74% have endorsed global patient safety challenge on medication without harm



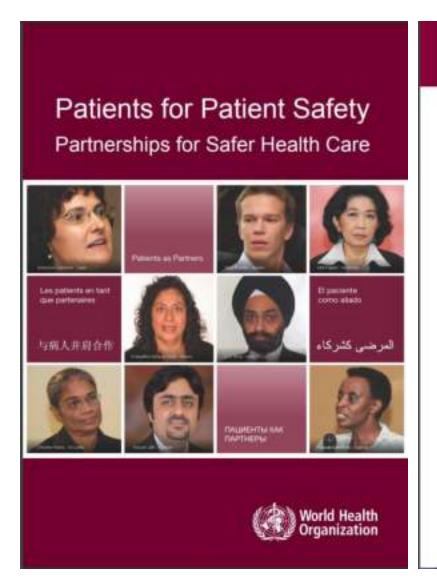
17% countries are implementing patient safety in primary care



72% have regulatory framework for safety of medical products



WHO Patients for Patient Safety Programme





Patient Safety

LONDON DECLARATION

Patients for Patient Safety WHO Patient Safety

We, Patients for Patient Safety, emission a different world in which healthcare errors are not harming people. We are pathers in the effort to prevent all avoidable harm in healthcare. Plais and uncertainty are constant companions. So we come together in dialogue, participating in care with providers. We unite our strength as advocates for care without harm in the developing as well as the developed world.

We are committed to spread the world from person to person, town to town, country to country. There is a right to calls healthcare and we will not let the current culture of error and denial, confinue. We call for honesty, openness and transparency. We will make the reduction of healthcare errors a basic human right that preserves life around the world.

We, Patients for Patient Safety, will be the yours for all people, but expecially those who are reinunheard. Together as partners, we will collaborate in:

- Devising and promoting programs for patient safety and patient empowerment.
- Developing and driving a constructive dialogue with all partners concerned with patient safety.
- . Establishing systems for reporting and dealing with healthcare harm on a worldwide basis.
- Defining best practices in dealing with healthcare harm of all kinds and promoting those practices throughout the world.

In honer of those who have deal, those left disabled, our loved ones lodgy and the world's children yet to be born, we will strive for excellence, so that all involved in healthcare are as safe as possible as soon as possible. This is our pledge of partnership.

March 29, 7006

- ☐ Established: 2005
- Objectives
 - Empower patients, families and communities to play an active role in their own care;
 - Bring the voices of patients and people to the forefront of health care;
 - Create an enabling environment for partnerships between patients, families, communities and health professionals

PFPS Network and Advisory Group

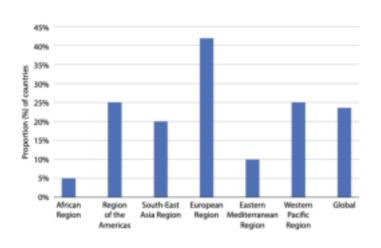


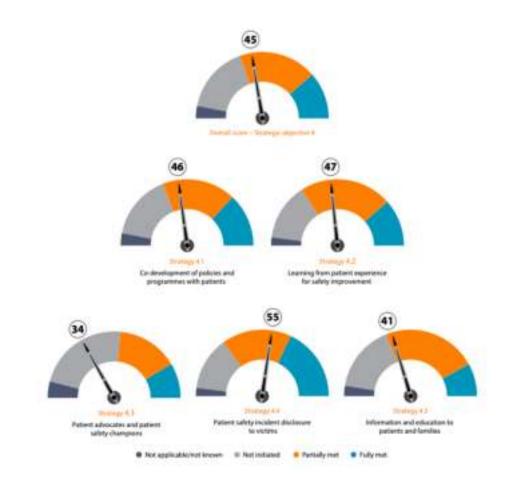
13%

countries have appointed a patient representative to the governing board in of majority of hospitals "We need to bridge the gap between intentions and real implementation of patient engagement"

24%

countries have established procedures for disclosing adverse events to patients and families





Key findings



44% countries have established a patient right charter



Only 20% codevelop polices with involvement of patients



Only 10% countries have patient for patient safety networks

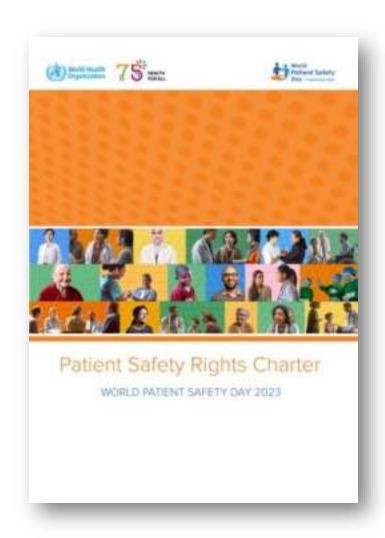


50% countries have procedures for accessing medical records



Only 13% countries have initiatives to educate patients for their engagement

Co-development of policies and programmes



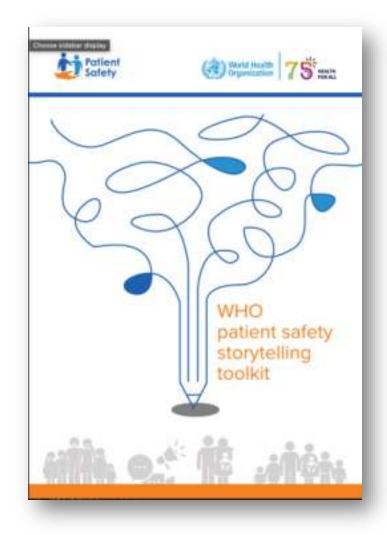


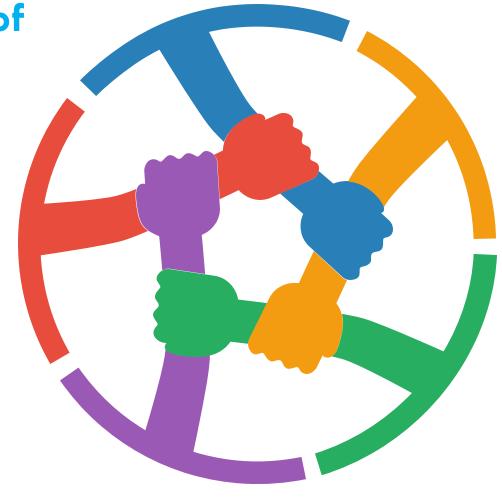


Access to medical records

Recognition and capacity building of

patient advocates





Patient organizations (IAPO, WPA, PFPS US, PFPS Canada, PFPS, Malaysia, PFPS Ireland)

Information and education to patients and families



In it together
Patient Safety



1. Patients, families and caregivers

Be informed, involved, and proactive in your diagnosis

- · Be actively engaged in the diagnostic process and with your health care team:
 - · share accurate and comprehensive information about your symptoms and medical history;
 - make sure you understand the diagnostic process, your illness' or symptoms expected progression, and next steps;
 - check your information is up-to-date, and keep track of your symptoms, medical visits, tests and treatments.
- Share your questions and concerns:
 - don't be afraid to ask questions;
 - · speak up, ask about alternative options or seek a second opinion if you need to;
 - share your experiences and contribute to making diagnosis safer for others.



Learning from patient stories

- ☐ Patient stories
- □Video testimonies (WPSD, PFPS and WHO Academy) Happening today



29 August 2017

Medication Without Harm: Reallife stories

Stories from health care workers



31 May 2017

Medication Without Harm: Reallife stories

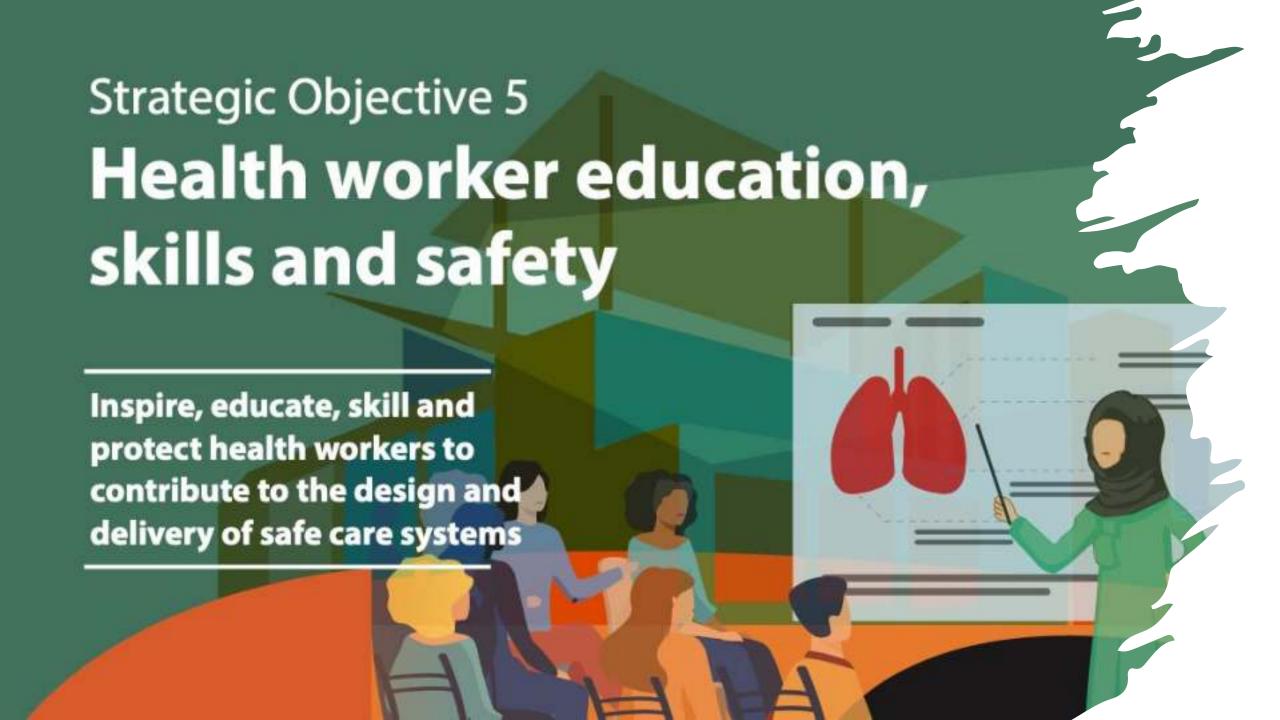
Patient stories of harm



31 May 2017

Medication Without Harm: Reallife stories

How patients and families have brought about change







Education and Training

- Patient Safety Essentials Curriculum Guide
- ➤ Medication Safety Curriculum Guide
- Global Patient Safety Collaborative country support



Patient Safety Curriculum Guide Multi-professional Edition



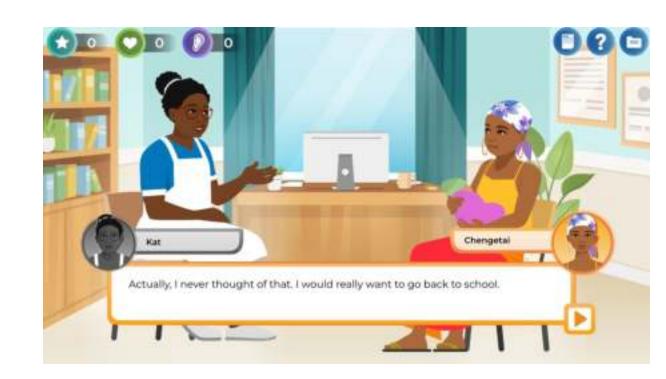




In service training

WHO Academy Patient Safety Essentials Course

- Module 1: Basic patient safety concepts, principles and definitions
- Module 2: System elements and systemic processes and approaches (including tools and methods) to ensure patient safety improvements
- Module 3: Patient Safety Navigator, practical application of tools to range of clinical areas







Safe working environment

WHO Health worker safety charter

- Calls on governments to take five actions
 - Better protect health workers from violence
 - Improve their mental health
 - Protect them from physical and biological hazards
 - Advance national programmes for health worker safety
 - Connect health worker safety policies to existing patient safety policies and strategies





World Patient Safety Day, 17 September 2020

CHARTER

Health worker safety: a priority for patient safety

This Charter is dedicated to the millions of health workers' fighting COVID-19 across the globe who put themselves and their families at risk to treat patients, deliver essential health services and contain the spread of the disease; to the health workers who have become infected with COVID-19; and to those who have lost their lives in their unstinting efforts to combat the disease.





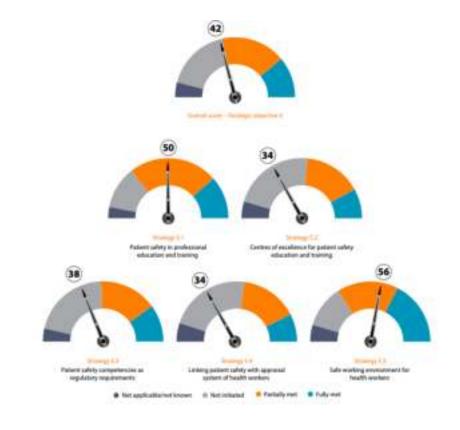
countries that have incorporated a patient safety curriculum in education programmes for health care professionals

"We need significant investment and role models for patient safety education and training"



18%

countries that have signed up for implementation of the WHO Health Worker Safety Charter



Key findings



Only 17% countries have adopted WHO patient safety curriculum



Only 10% countries have adequate trainers for patient safety



25% countries have defined patient safety core competencies



12% countries incentivize patient safety performance



55% countries provide vaccination of all at risk health workers



Information, research and risk management

Ensure a constant flow of information and knowledge to drive the mitigation of risk, a reduction in levels of avoidable harm, and improvements in the safety of care





Member State survey on implementation of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030

Language: English - English -

Respondent information

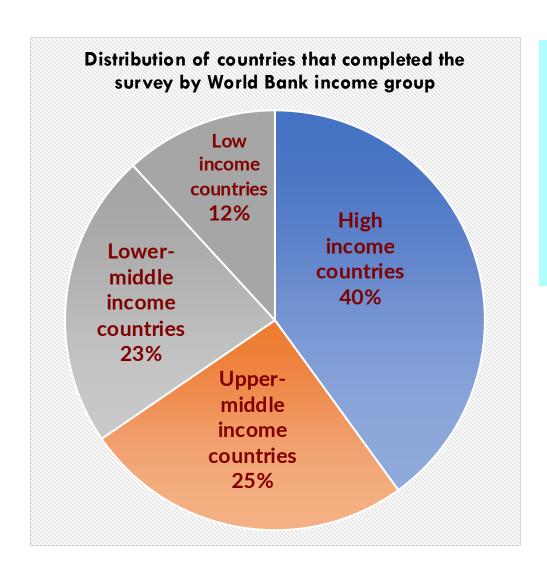
Details of the focal point(s) who provided the responses.

■ Name	Background and instructions		
	Respondent information		
	Strategic framework of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021– 2030 Strategic objective 1. Policies to eliminate avoidable harm in health		
Position / Designation	Care Strategy 1.1		
	Strategy 1.2		
	Strategy 1.3		
	Strategy 1.4		
	Strategy 1.5		



Response Characteristics





108
Countries
responded
officially
through
MOH

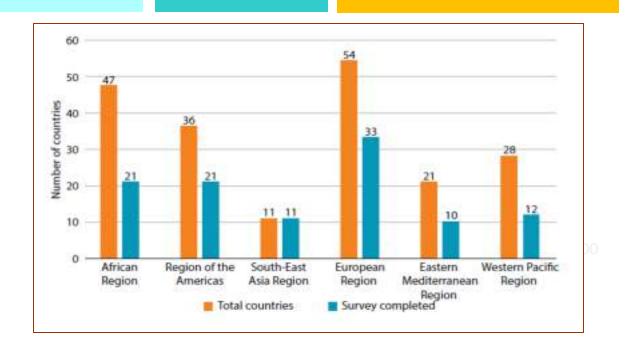
84% of world's population covered

10 Core Indicators

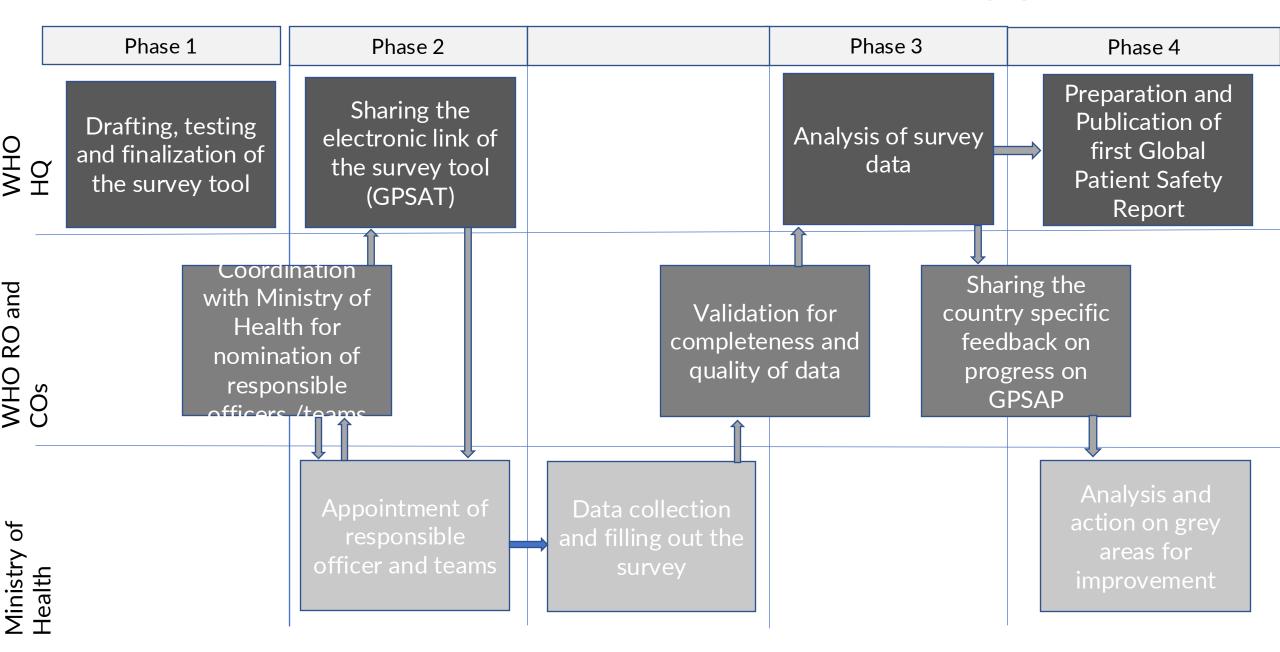
7x5=35
Strategies

7x5x5=175

Criteria



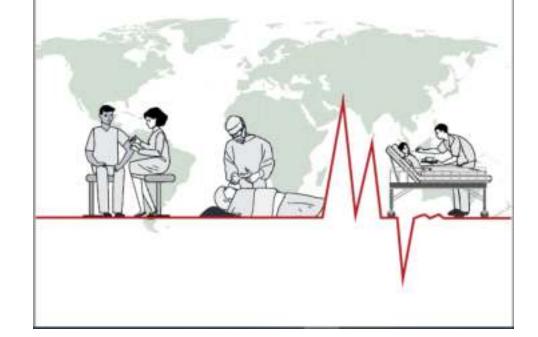
Overview of the Member State survey process







Global patient safety report 2024



Global Patient Safety Observatory





Patient safety is one of the most foundational and fundamental principles of medicine, essential for every country's journey towards universal health coverage and other health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

WHA72.6 resolution on Global action on patient safety urges all Members States to recognize patient safety as a priority in all health sector policies and implement systemic measures to reduce risk of avoidable harm in health care and requests WHO to measure and report on the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the resolution. Further, WHA decision WHA74(13) adopted the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 requested the Director-General to report back on the implementation progress every two years. The plan provides a set of core and advanced indicators aligned with the strategic objectives to be measured.

In response to this mandate, the WHO secretariat conducted first Member State survey in 2022-2023 to measure progress in achieving the goals and strategic objectives of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030. The data was collected using the Global Patient Safety Assessment Tool. By May 2023, official responses were received from 108 Member States through a designated focal point responsible for patient safety in the country. This survey will be repeated very two.

The Global Patient Safety Observatory serves as a vital step forward in establishing a measurement agenda for patient safety globally. The trends and insights from this observatory will assist countries in making informed policy decisions and fostering data-driven improvements in patient safety.

Key figures

Burden of harm

Around 1 in every

10

Adverse events

134 million
adverse events occur in hospitals in LMICs

Global Progress

Overall 27%

of criteria were 'fully met' in the global survey





Patient safety country profile:

Greece

2024





Patient safety snapshot. Oman

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Serverard Company of the Company of		
Global median	Self-reported scores (se a percentage)	Global Q3 benchmark
48.0%	41.7%	58,3%
LMC median		WPR median
36.8%		56.8%

Overall scores: Strategic objectives 1-7

The national progress on strategic objectives is presented alongside aggregated scores on the glutali median, the median for countries within the same World Bank income group, the third quarties (highlighting the scores of countries in the top 25% of performant) and the WHO regional median. The performance access should not be used to compare countries, as the survey was based on selfcommitment and such country faces unique challenges in maintaining patient safety within his health care system, instead, these scores should be viewed as a sucroe of inspiration for improvement.

Strategic objective		Scere/50	
1	Policies to eliminate avoidable herm in health care	25	
. 2	High-reliability systems	33	
3	Safety of clinical processes	90	
4	Patient and family engagement	.22	
	Health worker inducation, skills and safety	20	
6	Information, research and risk management	- 11	
7	Bynergy, partnership and solidarity	76	
etal.	obtained sours	146/350	

Each strategic objective consists of five strategies, with a total of 25 criteria. For each criterion, a score is easigned, two points for "fully met," and point for "partially met", and zero points for "not met." Criteria merked as "not applicable" are excluded from the scoring. Thus, the mestimum possible soons for each strategic objective is 50. A visual presentation of the performance excises the strategic objectives is presented below.

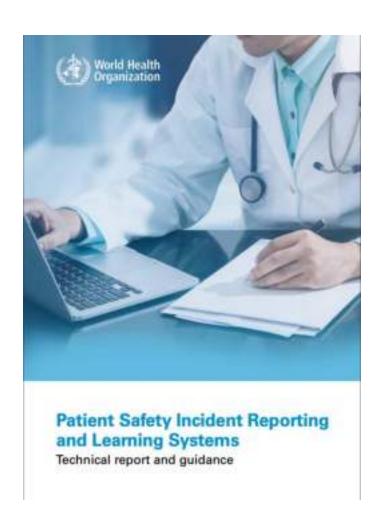


Ongoing patient safety measurement work

- Patient safety Member State Survey 2.0
- WHO Medication safety assessment tool
- WHO Patient safety assessment tool for health care facilities
- Global patient safety report 2025
- Patient safety outcome indicators
- Capacity building on Patient safety incident reporting and learnings systems

Patient Safety Incident Reporting and Learning Systems

- Technical Guidance
- Minimum information model
- Taxonomy and classification of patient safety incidents
- Country capacity building



32%

countries have majority of health care facilities participating in a patient safety incident reporting and learning system

CORE

CORE

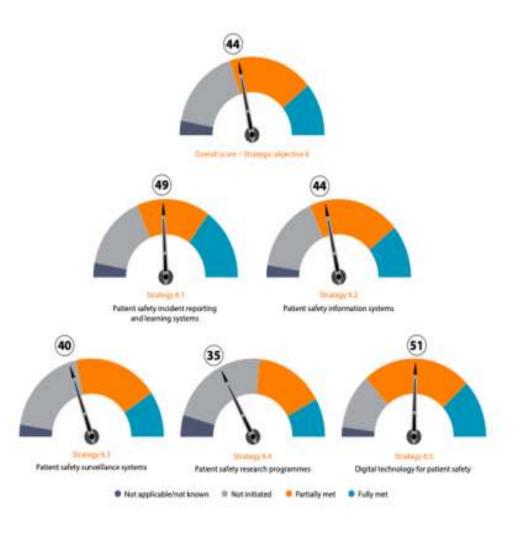
Indicator

18%

countries publish an annual report on patient safety



"In the coming years we should focus on 'learning' form patient safety data"



Key findings



30% countries have designated a national institution for PS-RLS



25% countries have incorporated patient safety indicators in HMIS



Only 13% countries have conducted studies on burden of harm



Only 11% countries have integrated various safety surveillance systems



Only 6% countries provide funds for patient safety research

Strategic Objective 7

Synergy, partnership and solidarity

Develop and sustain multisectoral and multinational synergy, partnership and solidarity to improve patient safety and quality of care





Strategic Objective 2: Key implementation areas

- ➤ Stakeholder engagement: different mechanisms for engagement, such as NSAs in official relations, WHO Collaborating Centres, MoU-based collaborations
- > Common understanding and shared commitment:
- Patient safety networks and collaboration: Global Patient Safety Network, Global Knowledge Sharing Platform
- Cross-geographical and multi-sectoral initiatives for patient safety: Global Ministerial Summits on Patient Safety, Global Patient Safety Collaborative
- Alignment with technical programmes and initiatives: QoC, IPC, AMR, disease-specific programmes







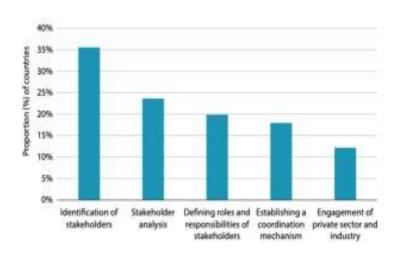


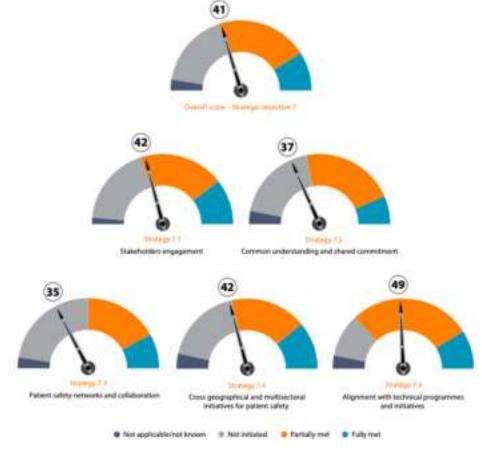
21%

Countries established a national patient safety network "International collaborations have paid its dividend in global patient safety movement. We need to replicate and integrate efforts at national and sub national level."

80%

Countries have made efforts to integrate patient safety with other health system strengthening efforts





Key findings



65% countries have initiatives for engaging private sector in patient safety



17% countries have established coordination mechanism for various stakeholders



20% countries have established national goals and targets for patient safety



28% countries share best practices



73% countries participate in global ministerial summits

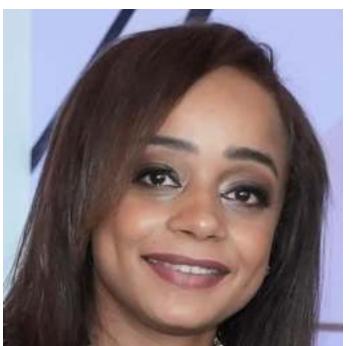












Patient Safety Flagship







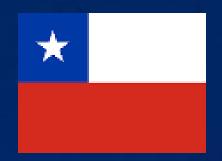
Thank you





Country stories

Moderator
Sir Liam DONALDSON
WHO Envoy for
Patient Safety











Policy development:

Malta



Point of care improvement programs:

Cambodia

Incident reporting and learning systems:

Morocco

Partnerships: Chile and the Philippines





World Patient Safety Day 2024





Improving diagnostic safety and implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030

10th – 12th September 2024 Geneva, Switzerland







Session 5 Mechanisms for implementing GPSAP 2021-2030





Chairperson
Neelam DHINGRA
Vice President, Chief
Patient Safety Officer
Joint Commission
International
Switzerland



Co-chairperson
Dr Giulia DAGLIANA
Coordinator, Centre for
Clinical Risk Management
and Patient Safety
Italy

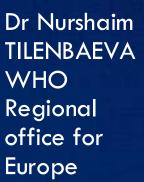




Panel discussion Challenges and opportunities at regional level









Dr Mondher LETAIEF, WHO regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean Region



Dr Aparna SINGH SHAH WHO Regional Office for South East Asian Region



Ogusa SHIBATA WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific Region



Dr Pierre KARIYO, WHO Regional Office for African Region



Dr Blanca
PENALOZA,
WHO Regional
Office
for the Americas









Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 implementation: recalibrating the compass

Dr. Nikhil GUPTA
Technical officer,
Patient Safety Flagship
Integrated Health Services,
WHO Headquarters
Switzerland











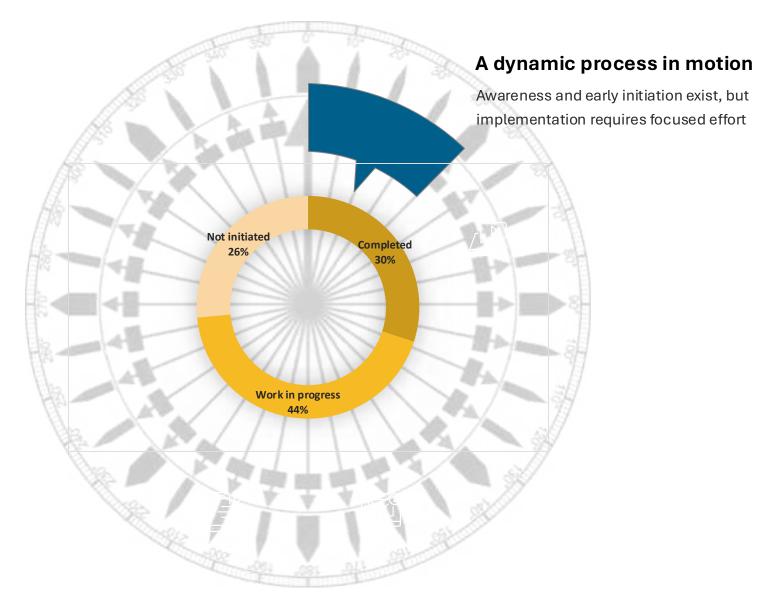




Nikhil Prakash Gupta Technical Officer Patient Safety Flagship

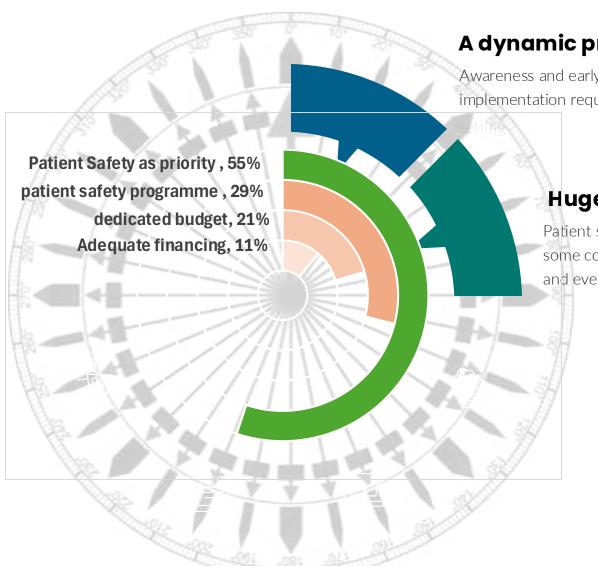












A dynamic process in motion

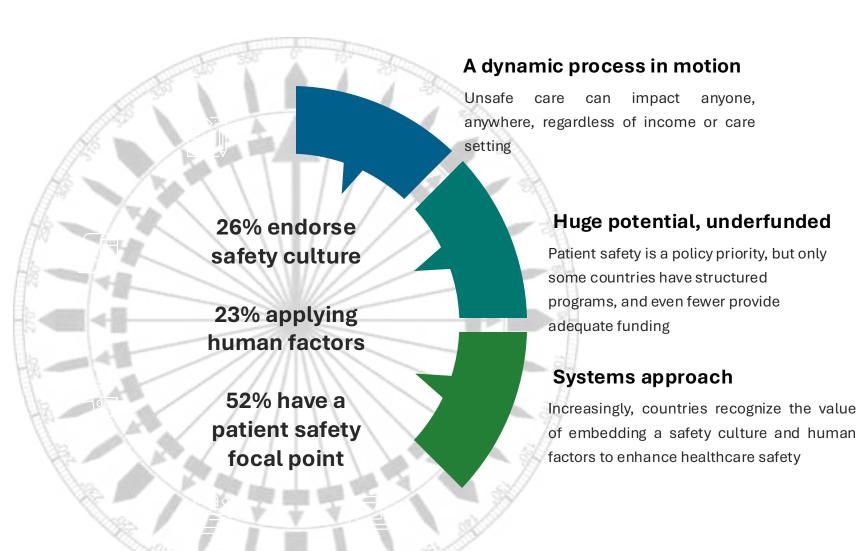
Awareness and early initiation exist, but implementation requires focused effort

Huge potential, underfunded

Patient safety is a policy priority, but only some countries have structured programs, and even fewer provide adequate funding













A dynamic process in motion

Unsafe care can impact anyone, anywhere, regardless of income or care setting

Huge potential, underfunded

Patient safety is a policy priority, but only some countries have structured programs, and even fewer provide adequate funding

Systems approach

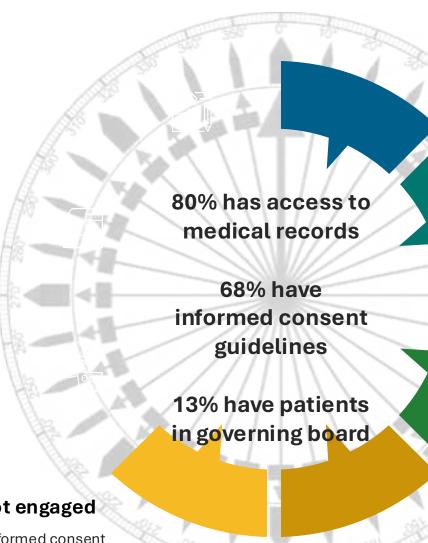
Increasingly, countries recognize the value of embedding a safety culture and human factors to enhance healthcare safety

Focus on few clinical disciplines

Though harm can occur in any setting, the current emphasis is on addressing high-risk procedures







A dynamic process in motion

Unsafe care can impact anyone, anywhere, regardless of income or care setting

Huge potential, underfunded

Patient safety is a policy priority, but only some countries have structured programs, and even fewer provide adequate funding

Systems approach

Increasingly, countries recognize the value of embedding a safety culture and human factors to enhance healthcare safety.

Focus on few clinical disciplines

Though harm can occur in any setting, the current emphasis is on addressing high-risk procedures

Patients are informed, not engaged

Access to medical records and informed consent is common, but fully engaging patients in broader healthcare delivery still needs significant work.







20% have patient safety curricula

14% have training capacity

25% defined patient safety competencies

A dynamic process in motion

Unsafe care can impact anyone, anywhere, regardless of income or care setting

Huge potential, underfunded

Patient safety is a policy priority, but only some countries have structured programs, and even fewer provide adequate funding

Systems approach

Increasingly, countries recognize the value of embedding a safety culture and human factors to enhance healthcare safety.

Focus on few clinical disciplines

Though harm can occur in any setting, the current emphasis is on addressing high-risk procedures

Global skills gap

While patient safety education is crucial, there remains a substantial gap in training capacity.

Patients are informed, not engaged

Access to medical records and informed consent is common, but fully engaging patients in broader healthcare delivery still needs significant work.





Evolving from reporting to learning

As the adoption of safety incident reporting systems increases, there is a need to leverage holistic learning from all data sources

Global skills gap

While patient safety education is crucial, there remains a substantial gap in training capacity.

Patients are informed, not engaged

Access to medical records and informed consent is common, but fully engaging patients in broader healthcare delivery still needs significant work.

32% have reporting and learning systems

25% reports patient safety indicators

11% utilizes all channels of data

A dynamic process in motion

Unsafe care can impact anyone, anywhere, regardless of income or care setting

Huge potential, underfunded

Patient safety is a policy priority, but only some countries have structured programs, and even fewer provide adequate funding

Systems approach

Increasingly, countries recognize the value of embedding a safety culture and human factors to enhance healthcare safety.

Focus on few clinical disciplines

Though harm can occur in any setting, the current emphasis is on addressing high-risk procedures





Bringing all stakeholders on board

While countries are actively engaging partners, there is still potential for further involvement of the private sector and industry.

Evolving from reporting to learning

As the adoption of safety incident reporting systems increases, there is a need to leverage holistic learning from all data sources

Global skills gap

While patient safety education is crucial, there remains a substantial gap in training capacity.

Patients are informed, not engaged

Access to medical records and informed consent is common, but fully engaging patients in broader healthcare delivery still needs significant work.

A dynamic process in motion

Unsafe care can impact anyone, anywhere, regardless of income or care setting

71% engage professional associations

44% engage civil society

35% engage industry

Huge potential, underfunded

Patient safety is a policy priority, but only some countries have structured programs, and even fewer provide adequate funding

Systems approach

Increasingly, countries recognize the value of embedding a safety culture and human factors to enhance healthcare safety.

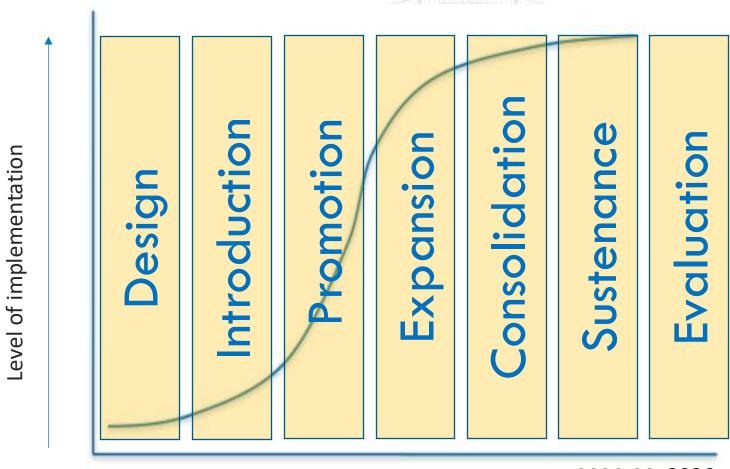
Focus on few clinical disciplines

Though harm can occur in any setting, the current emphasis is on addressing high-risk procedures





Life cycle of the action plan



2019-20 2021-22 2021-24 2025-26 2027-28

2028-29 2030







Introduction to group work

Alexandra Shaw
WHO Consultant
Patient Safety Flagship
Integrated Health Services
WHO Headquarters
Switzerland















Objective

Develop a driver diagram to identify the specific actions which can be taken to develop a high-reliability system for safer care

- A driver diagram is a visual tool used to display the relationship between a specific goal
 or aim and the factors that influence or 'drive' its achievement
- Helps teams and organizations to articulate theories of change and improvement
- Helps link broad strategies to specific actions, facilitating a structured approach to problem-solving, implementation, and continuous improvement
- This exercise will help in developing the implementation guide for patient safety





Process

- The Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 is available online for reference and a background document will be provided for each strategic objective
- Session 5 participants have been assigned to join a working group
- There will be six groups in total, each with a moderator and WHO focal point
- Moderators will introduce themselves, initiate a round of introductions of group members and brief the group on the task and questions. They will moderate the discussion to ensure equal participation
- The group will select a rapporteur to record and synthesise discussions
- Both a printed and powerpoint version of the driver diagram is available for the recording of discussions and to use for presenting back to the wider group
- The rapporteur will present the summary of the discussion in the plenary session tomorrow





Components of a driver diagram:

- **Aim:** This is the overarching objective the we wants to achieve. It is typically framed in measurable terms, specifying *what* will improve, *by how much, for whom*, and *by when*.
- **Primary Drivers:** These are the key factors or high-level strategies that directly influence the achievement of the aim.
- **Secondary Drivers:** These are the specific actions or processes that support the primary drivers. Secondary drivers break down each primary driver into more detailed steps that contribute to its success.
- **Change Ideas:** These are the interventions or specific initiatives that are tested to influence the secondary drivers. Change ideas provide concrete actions the team can implement.

Secondary Change Ideas/ **Drivers** Actions **Primary Drivers** Public awareness and aedication literacy **Empowered Patients** Patient engagement Media Campaign & Patient Story Banks & Public Reporting by patients Involvement of patient organizations **Education & training** Aim Reducing Look alike Sound Alike Drugs Competent **Health** Communication & teamwork **Care Professionals** Reducing Capability at point of care severe avoidable Incident reporting and learning medication Product quality & safety related harm by 50% Safer Medicines Naming, labelling & packaging Logistic, storage & disposal Right product at point of care Leadership & governance National Medication Safety Coordinators Safer Systems & Prescribing preparation & **Practices of** dispensing Medication Administration and patient monitoring Monitoring and evaluation

Patient Engagement Tool Kit

Community Self Medication Advocates

Patient Reporting Portal

Information Portal/ App

NGO / Patients Group Involvement Patients as Educators

Barcoding, Packaging, Labelling

Safety of traditional medicines

SOPs for storage and transportation

Production & Supply Chain Audits

High Alert, Ever & Never List

Medication Safety in Teaching Curriculum SOPs for Prescription & Administration

Communication Guide for Transition of

Medication Safety Champions Medication Reviews & Reconciliation

Medication Safety Research Priorities Medication Safety Pledge

Medication Safety Assessment Tool

Adverse Event Reporting & Learning

High Risk Situation Medication Guidelines

CPOE & Applications





Groups

Group 1 - Strategic Objective 1

Moderator: Melanie Leis Note taker: Irina Papieva

Group 2 - Strategic Objective 2

Moderator: Aidan Fowler Note taker: Nikhil Gupta

Group 3 - Strategic Objective 3

Moderator: Mondher Letaief

Note taker: Priyadarshani Galappatthy

Henrietta Hughes

Ingo Härtel Ndella Konate

Reinavelle Jeunesse Mateo

Britta Gerloff

Yin Shaqing

Tatiane Batista

Mustapha Elhousni

Tania Cardona Giulia Dagliana

Aline Cristina Pedroso

Mark Graber

Julia Tainijoki-Seyer

Federico Manetti

Carmen Crock

Kor Virya

Aparna Singh Shah

Matteo Cesari

Upuli Wijemanne

Lydia Okutoyi

Patrizia Cuccaro

Michele Loiudice

Tuija Ikonen

Ferid Shannoun

Ratko Magjarević

Hardeep Singh

Frédéric Cave

Carmel Moran

Tomris Özben

Caroline Samer

Gustavo Faissol Janot de Matos





Groups

Group 4 - Strategic Objective 4

Moderator: Helen Haskell Note taker: Ayda Taha

Group 5 - Strategic Objective 5

Moderator: Paulo Sousa

Note taker: Alexandra Shaw

Group 6 - Strategic Objective 6

Moderator: Neelam Dhingra

Note taker: Diana Zandi

Alex Adusei

Terence Vanginkel Wilde

Hussein Jafri

Antonia Gama

Maria Pilar Astier Peña

Javiera Esperanza Fuentes Contreras

Edwardo Haughton Angeliki Karaiskou Robert Velickovski

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Innovating for impact: the role of implementation science in patient safety



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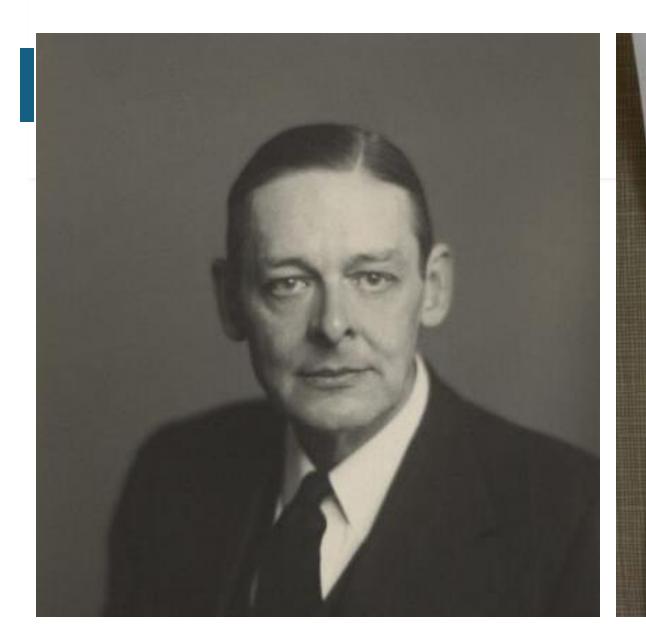




Innovating for Impact: the Role of Implementation Science in Patient Safety

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Between the idea And the reality Between the motion And the act Falls the Shadow Excerpt from the poem, The Hollow Men, by T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)



Objectives

- Explain the importance of "implementation science to effective DXE interventions
- Explain why implementation must incorporate local knowledge
- Describe"4 Es" for translating research into practice





Implementation Research

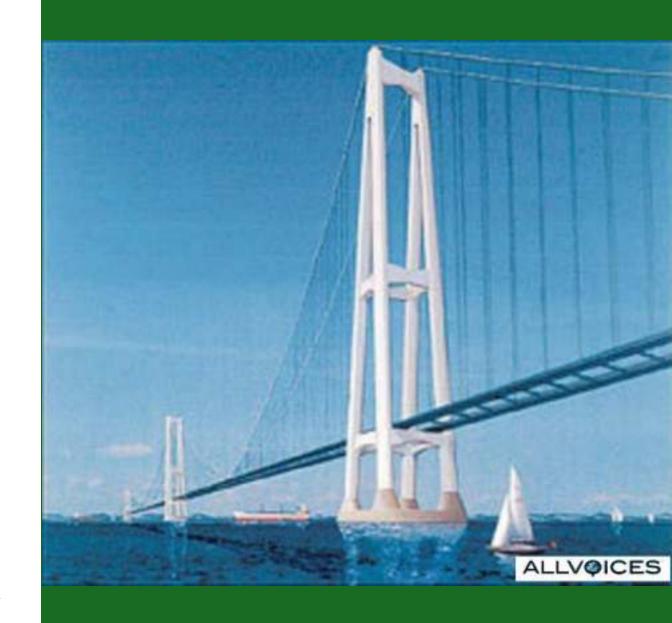
DEFINITION

- The scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services and care
- This relatively new field includes the study of influences on healthcare professional and organizational behavior.



Implementation as Bridge Building

- ...between research & practice
- (Also, between providers & consumers)
- To facilitate uptake of effective procedures in specific healthcare settings
- Goal is to get things to work





Generalizable Knowledge, Local Knowledge

Each health care setting is a unique implementation task

- Intervention based on generalizable knowledge
- Implementation must incorporate local knowledge
 - Organizational culture
 - Financial constraints
 - Resource availability (such as IT support)
 - Provider beliefs and attitudes
 - Person / family beliefs / attitudes
- Integration of local knowledge requires problem-solving that adapts and improvises to accommodate prevailing local conditions



Example

Delayed communication, follow-up and resolution of abnormal mammograms limits early detection efforts and causes psychological distress and anxiety

INTERVENTION

Radiology department contacts women directly rather than waiting for provider to communicate results

EFFICACY

Increased rate of follow up testing and resolution



Patient Safety Prop: From Potential Efficacy of Intervention to

Actual nesults



```
Potential to
Receive High-
Quality Health Care

1. Insurance Available
2. Enrolled in Insurance
3. Providers and Services Covered
4. Informed Choice Available
5. Consistent Source of Primary Care Available
6. Referral Services Accessible
7. High-Quality Care Delivered
Received Care
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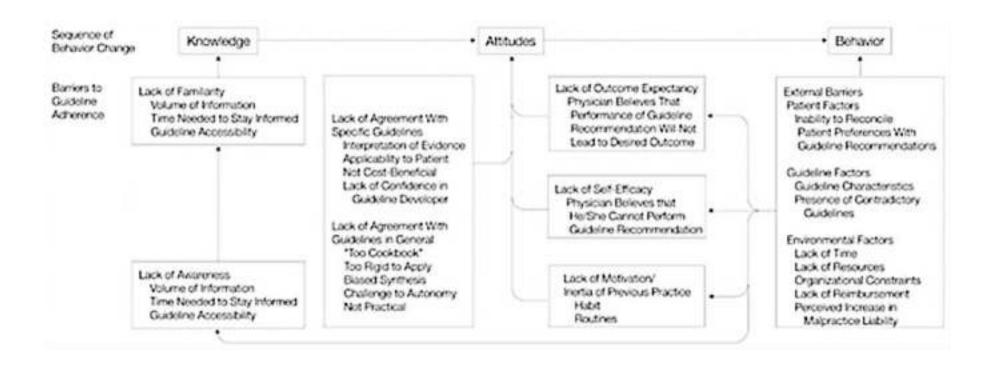


Identify Local Barriers to Implementation

- The intervention will be part of a work process
- What is the context surrounding this work?
- Walk through steps with provide to observe what is required to implement intervention
 - Where are the failure points?
 - What could be done to improve compliance?

From: Cabana M et al. Why Don't Physicians Follow Clinical Practice Guidelines?: A Framework for Improvement

JAMA. 1999;282(15):1458-1465. doi:10.1001/jama.282.15.1458





Change is Hard

If you want to truly understand something, try to change it.

-Kurt Lewin (founder of modern social psychology and change theory)



Understanding Context

- To help understand the context in which the intervention will be implemented, ask all stakeholders why it is difficult or easy for them to comply with recommended practices
- Listen carefully and learn what staff may gain or lose from implementing the intervention

Measure Performance

Need performance measures

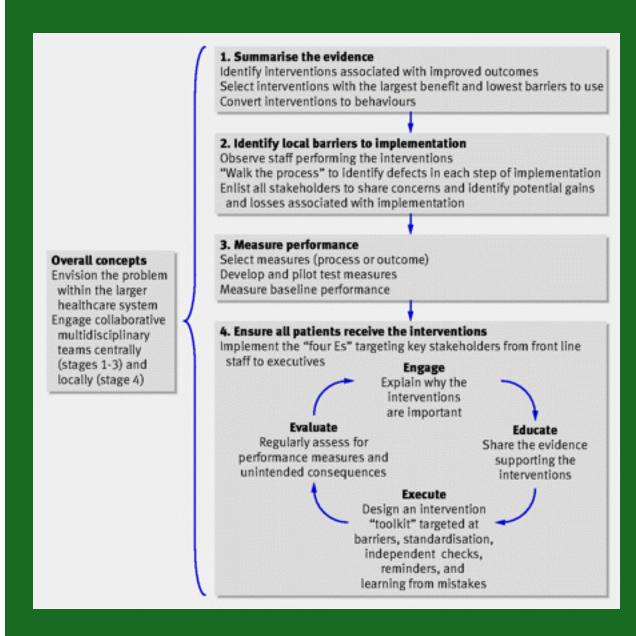
- How often do patients actually receive the recommended intervention (process measures)
- Do patient outcomes improve (outcome measures)
- Outcome measures are preferred if valid and feasible

Measures

- Teams use quantitative measures to determine if a specific change actually leads to an improvement.
- Many sequential, observable tests
- Gather "just enough" data to learn and complete another cycle
- "Small tests of significant changes" accelerates the rate of improvement

Strategy for Translating Evidence to Practice

- Simplify the steps
- Identify local barriers
- Understand context
- Measure performance
- Ensure reliability



Ensure All Patients Receive the Intervention

The 4 "Es"

- Most complex stage: Ensure that all patients get the intervention
- Interventions must fit local system, including culture and resources
- 4 "Es"
 - Engage
 - Educate
 - Execute
 - Evaluate

Engage

- Share real life stories of patients
- Estimate the harm attributable to omitting the intervention in the local organization based on their own data
- Inform each unit of its annual number of delayed notifications

Educate

- All relevant staff
- Published evidence supporting the proposed intervention
- Concise summary
- Checklist of the evidence?

Execute

- Design an implementation manual or toolkit based on identified barriers to implementation
- Based on 3 principles for redesigning care
 - standardize care processes
 - create independent checks (such as checklists)
 - learn from mistakes

Evaluate

Process Measures

- Numbers of Processes delivered per mammogram
- Time to treatment

Outcome Measures

 PREMS and PROMS



"Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning."

Winston Churchill



SUMMARY

- Implementation requires generalized and local knowledge (technical + adaptive work)
- A strategy to translate evidence into practice includes steps to
 - Simplify the process
 - Identify local barriers
 - Understand context
 - Measure performance
- Ensure reliable uptake by following "4 Es"
 - Engagement, Education, Execution, Evaluation
- Can be applied to LMIC
- Add consideration of barriers and evaluation to DXE Implementation Model



Questions?





Getting the diagnosis right: World Patient Safety Day 2024

journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management

1-4

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...the most crucial step toward healing is having the right diagnosis. If the disease is precisely identified, a good resolution is far more likely. Conversely, a bad diagnosis usually means a bad outcome, no matter how skilled the physician. (Andrew Weil)

Scientific and medical advances in the last two centuries have revolutionized healthcare, transforming it into an endeavor that can prolong and improve life. These advances include the ability to diagnose a patient's health problem in a holistic way, which then indicates the steps needed to prevent or mitigate adverse consequences. Diagnosis plays a central, multifaceted role in healthcare and health, influencing lifestyle, health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, and recovery. Correct and timely diagnosis is dependent upon strong health systems, effective and efficient design planning, and the capacity to deliver safe and high-quality care.

Diagnosis is not the end, but the beginning of practice. Early diagnosis can be crucial to detecting a disease where curative treatment options are available. Accurate diagnosis can improve patient outcomes, enhance patient trust, lead to efficient resource utilization, and reduce the overall burden on healthcare systems. Today, safer diagnosis is important for many reasons: to direct efforts for prevention and treatment, for planning, informing, and reassuring, and to inform biases, with the potential for targeted and broad interventions.²⁻⁴ It can involve failures in gathering and synthesizing information due to lack of competency, communication failures, complex workflows, repetitive tasks, distractions and interruptions, inadequate follow-ups, or premature closure. Other broader system-related factors include inadequate staffing levels, high patient flows, resource availability, and technological issues. Cognitive biases including predispositions in one's responses based on experience or current condition are another important factor leading to diagnostic errors.⁵

For example, a systematic review found that 64% of closed malpractice claims are due to diagnostic errors, with 79% of those cases including a "failure of judgment."⁶ Patient-related factors such as providing incomplete information, or cognitive or physical impairment might have a bearing on reaching the correct diagnosis.

Sadly, most adults are likely to face at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, a statistic that shows the substantial work required to improve the safety of diagnostic processes. It has been estimated that diagnostic errors contribute to 10% of patient deaths, harming or killing 795,000 people in the US annually. Although data are scarce, rates may be higher in low- and middle-income countries. Globally, diagnostic errors account for nearly 16% of preventable harm across health systems. There is substantial evidence that marginalized groups face a disproportionate burden of harm due to diagnostic errors.





Closing remarks of Day 2

Sir Liam DONALDSON
WHO Envoy for
Patient Safety
WHO HQ
Switzerland







