World Patient Safety Day 17 September 2019

World Health Organization

Speak up for patient safety!
No one should be harmed in health care
No one should be harmed in health care...
And yet..

And yet globally, at least 5 patients die a minute because of unsafe health care. Most of these deaths are avoidable.

Source: https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/
Adverse events due to unsafe care are likely to be one of the top 10 leading causes of death and disability worldwide

Source: https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/
One in every 10 patients is harmed while receiving hospital care in HICs.

Source: https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/
4 out of 10 patients are harmed in primary and ambulatory care settings.

Source: https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/
Medication errors are a leading cause of injury and avoidable harm

Source: [https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/](https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/)
Unsafe surgical care causes complications in up to 25% of patients

Almost 7 million surgical patients annually suffer significant complications

Source: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44185/9789241598552_eng.pdf?sequence=1
Why does patient harm occur?

look alike sound alike medication names
fatigue
inadequate systems
poor reporting systems
unsafe practices poor communication
wrong patient
lack of training and experience of medical staff
wrong route
wrong diagnosis
provision of healthcare is error-prone
lack of teamwork
Invest in patient safety

The cost to patients, healthcare systems, and societies is considerable

15% of total hospital activity and expenditure in OECD countries is direct result of adverse events

Source: https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/patient_safety/en/
WPSD 2019 slogan: **Speak up for patient safety!**
How can you enhance patient safety

If you are a...

**Patient or Caregiver**
Be involved, ask questions, provide accurate health history

**Public Health Advocate or Patient Organization**
Promote patients' voices in their own safe care, advocate for required safety

**Professional Association, International Organization, or Foundation**
Promote patient safety for UHC, provide learning and development opportunities

**Health Worker or Health Leader**
Engage patients, ensure continuous professional development, create openness and transparency in practice, be blame-free

**Policy Maker**
Invest in patient safety for financial savings and saving lives, make patient safety a priority

**Research Student, Academic, or Professional Institution**
Generate evidence to improve patient safety, incorporate patient safety into curricula