
WEBINAR CONCEPT NOTE

Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety

INTRODUCTION:

World Patient Safety Day was established by the 72nd World Health Assembly, in May 2019, with the adoption of resolution WHA72.6 on ‘Global action on patient safety,’ and an endorsement for the Day to be marked annually on 17 September. World Patient Safety Day builds on a series of successful annual Global Ministerial Summits on Patient Safety, which started in London in 2016.

The overall objectives of World Patient Safety Day are to enhance global understanding of patient safety, increase public engagement in the safety of health care, and promote global actions to improve patient safety and reduce patient harm WHO¹ recognizes that no one should be harmed in health care. However, there are still 134 million adverse events, which are caused each year by unsafe care in hospitals in low- and middle-income countries, causing 2.6 million deaths. In fact, it is estimated that 15% of hospital activity and spending is a direct result of adverse events in OECD countries; and that 4 out of 10 patients suffer damage in primary and outpatient health care. Up to 80% of the damage is preventable. Therefore, the origin of the Day is firmly grounded in the fundamental principle of medicine – First, do no harm.

The COVID-19 pandemic is presently among the biggest challenges and threats to face the world and humanity, and health care is living its greatest crisis in patient safety ever. The pandemic has exerted unprecedented pressure on health systems worldwide and has revealed structural weaknesses in human resources for health management, mainly in labor-management and work environments. The insufficient number of health workers, their inadequate distribution, and poorly defined competencies, increase the risks of adverse events in patients.

Working in stressful environments exacerbates safety risks for health workers, including mental health and being infected and contributing to outbreaks in the health care facility, having limited access or adherence to personal protective equipment and other infection prevention and control measures, and inducing errors which can potentially harm patients and health workers. In many countries, health workers are facing increased risks of infections, violence, accidents, stigma, illness, and death. All these factors contribute to an increased risk of the occurrence of adverse events and errors that can compromise the safety of patients.

Health systems can only function with health workers, and a knowledgeable, skilled, and motivated health workforce is critical for the provision of safe care to patients while ensuring the safety of health workers.

¹ OMS. World Patient Safety Day Campaign <https://www.who.int/es/campaigns/world-patient-safety-day/2020>

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The 2020 World Patient Safety Day focuses on ***Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety***, to raise global awareness, participation, and commitment of multiple stakeholders, to foster solidarity and the adoption of measures to promote health worker safety as a priority leading to patient safety.

PROGRAM:

DATE: Thursday 17 September 2020

TIME: 2:00 a 3:30 pm EST (English)

PLATAFORM: ZOOM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vN3Fp2TXSLCfYNhx7ISjiA

Follow the event in YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/pahoty>

Moderators: **Lic. Hernán Sepúlveda**, and **Dr. Benjamin Puertas**, Advisors, Human Resources for Health

1. Welcoming. **Dr. Amalia Del Riego** – Unit Chief HSS/HS [5 min]
2. A comprehensive approach to patient safety within the framework of quality of care in health service delivery. **Dr. Jonás Gonseth-García**, HSS/HS [MAX 10 min]
3. A comprehensive approach and health situation of health workers from public health in the context of COVID-19. **Dr. Julietta Rodríguez-Guzmán**, FPL/ST [MAX 15 min]
4. Management of human resources for health and patient safety in the context of COVID-19. **Dr. Malhi Cho**, HSS/RH [MAX 15 min]
5. Infection prevention and control in patient and health workers safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Dr. Joao Toledo**, PHE [MAX 15 min]
6. Questions and Answers - Participants are invited to submit in advance questions about the situation and challenges regarding the health of healthcare workers and patients in the context of COVID-19, as well as in the chat of the session. [25 min]
7. Closing of the session: Conclusions and next steps [MAX 5 min] - **Dra. Amalia Del Riego** HSS/HS