



health

Department:
Health
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MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists

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WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY COMMEMORATION: 17 SEPTEMBER

Pretoria: The Department of Health will today, join the global community in commemorating the World Patient Safety Day, a global initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO) meant to raise public awareness about critical issues of patient safety in order to prevent and reduce patient harm in healthcare.

Patient safety remains the cornerstone of high-quality health care. According to WHO, around 1 in every 10 patients is harmed in health care and more than 3 million deaths occur annually due to unsafe care globally. Common adverse events that may result in avoidable patient harm include but not limited to medication errors, unsafe surgical procedures, health care-associated infections, diagnostic errors,

Thus, patient safety awareness campaign emphasizes a need to improve patient safety as a universal health priority by fostering collaboration among patients, families, healthcare workers and leaders in order to implement safer healthcare practices, which result in improved health outcomes.

This year's World Patient Safety Day campaign continues to amplify the global call for safer systems, informed communities, and healthcare free from avoidable harm. The campaign is commemorated under the theme: "**Safe care for every newborn and every child**", which emphasizes the need for stronger measures to protect children from preventable harm in health care. The theme is supported by a slogan, "**Patient safety from the start!**", which also recognizes the vulnerability of this age group to risks and harm caused by unsafe care.

Every child has the right to safe, quality health care from the very beginning. However, newborns and young children continue to face higher risks due to their rapid development, evolving health needs and different disease patterns.

Strengthening safety in paediatric and newborn care is essential for any country 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 is for this reason that the Department calls on parents, caregivers, health practitioners, health care leaders, educators and communities to join hands in action to prevent avoidable harm in paediatric care and to build a safer, healthier future for every child.

The Department in collaboration with World Health Organization, Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) will host a webinar as part of World Patient Safety Day as part of activities to commemorate the campaign to mobilise stakeholders including healthcare organisations, 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.

Some of the topics to be discussed include Patient safety in the healthcare facilities and Healthcare-associated infections in children, Patient safety in communities and the family, and Childhood injuries or trauma.

Details of the webinar are as follows

Date: Wednesday, 17 September 2025

Time: 10h00

Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VumAa6F5RcO0hICkjH2C8w

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