



Commonwealth Nurses Federation

Caribbean 4 Safety Workshops 2008

Theme 1

A Safe Patient

Clean care is safer care

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Executive Secretary

Commonwealth Nurses Federation



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World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int>

World Alliance for Patient Safety

October 2004

<http://www.who.int/patientsafety>

International Alliance of Patients Organizations

<http://www.patientsorganizations.org>



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

**Deliver high quality health care to all patients
in all clinical settings.**



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

1. Reduce harm and disease. Avoid preventable adverse events.
2. Raise public health awareness.
3. Increase community participation in health seeking behaviours.
4. Increase immunisation and vaccination rates.



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

- * Lack of human resources
- * High patient to health care worker ratio
- * High health facility utilisation rates
- * Lack of essential medicines and supplies
- * Lack of diagnostic facilities



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

1. Safety culture
2. Match health care needs with service capacity
3. Adequate information transfer and communication
4. Adequate and safe processes of care
5. Safe medication use



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

* Blood safety

- promotion of optimal hand hygiene associated with procedures for collection, processing and use of blood products;
- promotion of donor skin asepsis;
- inservice education and training on safe transfusion practices.



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

- * **Injection and immunisation safety**
 - promotion of optimal hand hygiene practices at time of injection;
 - auto disable and disposable syringes;
 - safe disposal of sharps.



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

* Safe clinical procedures

- education programs to promote safety in surgical procedures;
- surgical hand preparation using either antimicrobial soap and water or alcohol based hand rub;
- access to safe emergency and essential surgical care.



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

* Safe water and sanitation

- ensuring access and water quality;
- ensuring sound management of waste.



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First Global Patient Safety Challenge

* Hand hygiene

- government commitment to implement national strategies to promote hand hygiene;
- health worker commitment to hand hygiene;
- testing implementation of the WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene.



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Ten facts on patient safety

1

Patient safety is a serious global public health issue. In recent years, countries have increasingly recognised the importance of improving patient safety. In 2002, WHO member states agreed on a World Health Assembly resolution on patient safety.



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Ten facts on patient safety

2

Estimates show that in developed countries as many as one in 10 patients is harmed while receiving hospital care. The harm can be caused by a range of errors or adverse events.



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Ten facts on patient safety

3

In developing countries, the probability of patients being harmed in hospitals is higher than in industrialised nations. The risk of health care associated infection in some developing countries is as much as 20 times higher than in developed countries.



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Ten facts on patient safety

4

At any given time, 1.4 million people worldwide suffer from infections acquired in hospitals. Hand hygiene is the most essential measure for reducing health care associated infection and the development of antimicrobial resistance.



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Ten facts on patient safety

5

At least 50% of medical equipment in developing countries is unusable or only partly usable. Often the equipment is not used due to lack of skills or commodities. As a result, diagnostic procedures or treatments cannot be performed. This leads to substandard or hazardous diagnosis or treatment that can pose a threat to the safety of patients and may result in serious injury or death.



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Ten facts on patient safety

6

In some countries, the proportion of injections given with syringes or needles reused without sterilisation is as high as 70%. This exposes millions of people to infections. Each year, unsafe injections cause 1.3 million deaths, primarily due to transmission of blood borne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus and HIV.



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Ten facts on patient safety

7

Surgery is one of the most complex health interventions to deliver. More than 100 million people require surgical treatment every year for different medical reasons. Problems associated with surgical safety in developed countries account for half of the avoidable adverse events that result in death or disability.



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Ten facts on patient safety

8

The economic benefits of improving patient safety are compelling. Studies show that additional hospitalisation, litigation costs, infections acquired in hospitals, lost income, disability and medical expenses have cost some countries between US\$ 6 billion and US\$ 29 billion a year.



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Ten facts on patient safety

9

Industries with a perceived higher risk such as aviation and nuclear plants have a much better safety record than health care. There is a 1 in 1 million chance of a traveller being harmed while in an aircraft. In comparison, there is a 1 in 300 chance of a patient being harmed during health care.



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Ten facts on patient safety

10

Patient's experience and their health are at the heart of the patient safety movement. The World Alliance for Patient Safety is working with 40 champions who have in the past suffered due to lack of patient safety measures, to help make health care safer worldwide.



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Summary of the evidence on patient safety: implications for research

**World Health Alliance for Patient Safety and
World Health Organization 2008**

http://www.who.int/patientsafety/information_centre/20080523_Summary_of_the_evidence_on_patient_safety.pdf



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Outcomes of unsafe medical care

1. Adverse events due to drug treatment
2. Adverse events and injuries due to medical devices
3. Injuries due to surgical and anaesthesia errors
4. Health care associated infections
5. Unsafe injection practices
6. Unsafe blood products
7. Safety of pregnant women and newborns
8. Safety of the elderly
9. Injuries due to falls in hospitals
10. Decubitus ulcers



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Structural factors that contribute unsafe care

1. Organisational failures
2. Structural accountability: use of accreditation and regulation to ensure patient safety
3. Safety culture
4. Training, education and human resources
5. Stress and fatigue
6. Production pressure
7. Lack of appropriate knowledge and its transfer
8. Devices and procedures with no human factors



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Processes that contribute to unsafe care

1. Misdiagnosis
2. Poor test follow up
3. Counterfeit and substandard drugs
4. Inadequate measures of patient safety
5. Lack of involvement of patients in patient safety



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PATIENT SAFETY SOLUTIONS

August 2005

WHO Collaborating Center for Patient Safety
Solutions

1. Look alike, sound alike medication names
2. Patient identification
3. Communication during patient hand over
4. Performance of correct procedure at correct
body site



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5. Control of concentrated electrolyte solutions
6. Assuring medication accuracy at transitions in care
7. Avoiding catheter and tubing misconnections
8. Single use of injection devices
9. Improved hand hygiene to prevent health care associated infections



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- * Follow up on critical test results
- * Patient falls
- * Health care associated infections (central lines)
- * Pressure ulcers
- * Response to the deteriorating patient
- * Patient and family involvement
- * Apology and disclosure
- * Look alike, sound alike medication packaging



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STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Key Elements

1. Hand hygiene
2. Gloves
3. Facial protection
4. Gown
5. Prevention of needle stick injuries
6. Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
7. Environmental cleaning
8. Linens
9. Waste disposal
10. Patient care equipment