

Announcing World Patient Safety Day 2023

World Patient Safety Day is one of [WHO's global public health days](#). It was established in 2019 by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly through the adoption of resolution [WHA72.6 – “Global action on patient safety”](#). Global public health days offer great potential to raise awareness and understanding of key health issues and to mobilize support for action, from the local community to the international stage. World Patient Safety Day is firmly grounded in the fundamental principle of medicine – “first do no harm”. Its objectives are to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding, and work towards global solidarity and action by Member States to promote patient safety. Each year, a new theme is selected to highlight a priority patient safety area for action.

Recognizing the central role that patients, their families and caregivers play in advancing safe care, “**Engaging patients for patient safety**” has been selected as the theme for World Patient Safety Day 2023. Evidence shows that when patients are treated as partners in their care, significant gains are made in safety, patient satisfaction and health outcomes. Resolution WHA72.6 urges Member States “to put into place systems to support the active engagement, participation and empowerment of patients, families and communities in the delivery of safer health care”. In order to shift the paradigm of patient-centredness from care designed “for patients” to care designed “with patients”, patient and family engagement has been included as one of the seven strategic objectives of the [Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030](#) and will now be the focus of the global campaign for this year’s World Patient Safety Day.

Through the slogan “**Elevate the voice of patients!**”, WHO calls on all stakeholders to take necessary action to ensure that patients are involved in policy formulation, are represented in governance structures, are engaged in co-designing safety strategies, and are active partners in their own care. There is a need to provide platforms at global, national and local levels to enable patients and their families to make their voices heard and share their experiences of safe and unsafe care; and to ensure that they are engaged and empowered, and their insights are used as a vital source of learning and improvement.

Objectives of World Patient Safety Day 2023

1. Raise global awareness of the need for active engagement of patients and their families and caregivers in all settings and at all levels of health care to improve patient safety.
2. Engage policy-makers, health care leaders, health and care workers, patients’ organizations, civil society and other stakeholders in efforts to engage patients and families in the policies and practices for safe health care.
3. Empower patients and families to be actively involved in their own health care and in the improvement of safety of health care.
4. Advocate urgent action on patient and family engagement, aligned with the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030, to be taken by all partners.

Working together to make health care safer

The global campaign for World Patient Safety Day 2023 proposes a wide range of activities for all stakeholders on and around 17 September 2023, including national campaigns, policy forums, advocacy and technical events, capacity-building initiatives and, as in previous years, lighting up iconic monuments, landmarks and public places in the colour orange (the signature mark of the campaign). WHO encourages all stakeholders to join the global campaign and take urgent action for implementation of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030. Please share information about your plans to celebrate World Patient Safety Day by clicking [here](#).

For more information about the campaign and proposed activities, please visit the WHO World Patient Safety Day 2023 [event page](#) and [WHO Patient Safety Website](#).

For further inquiries, contact us at patientsafety@who.int.