



## WPSD 2024 Global Consultation

### Improving diagnostic safety and implementing Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030

10-12 September 2024  
Geneva, Switzerland

## Concept note

### Background

In May 2019 the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted a resolution on **'Global action on patient safety'** (WHA72.6) urging Member States to recognize patient safety as a key priority in health sector policies and programmes. The resolution also requested WHO Director-General "to formulate a global patient safety action plan in consultation with Member States, regional economic integration organizations and all relevant stakeholders, including in the private sector".

In 2011, the 74<sup>th</sup> WHA approved the decision WHA74(13) to adopt the **Global Patient Safety Action Plan (GPAP) 2021–2030** and requested the Director-General to report back on the implementation progress to the 76<sup>th</sup> WHA in 2023 and thereafter every two years until 2031. In 2023, the interim report, based on the WHO Member States survey, was released to give a snapshot of progress made in achieving the strategic objectives and strategies of the GPSAP. Following that, in 2024 the **Global Patient Safety Report 2024** was released which offers a comprehensive overview of patient safety implementation worldwide. Aligned with the GPSAP 2021–2030, this report explores the progress countries are making in shaping safety in health care through implementing policies, strategies, and initiatives. From analyses of country actions to in-depth summaries of the burden of unsafe care, it provides crucial insights for policymakers, health care leaders, researchers, academics and patient safety advocates into specific areas that require attention and investment. This report serves as a vital resource for fostering global collaboration and advancing patient safety in health care.

**World Patient Safety Day (WPSD)**, one of WHO's global public health days, was established in 2019 by WHA72.6 and is observed annually on 17 September. This day is the cornerstone of action to promote global health and safety, with the objectives 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 for WPSD to highlight a priority patient safety area that requires urgent and concerted action.

Recognizing the critical importance of correct and timely diagnoses in ensuring patient safety, 'Improving diagnosis for patient safety' has been selected as the theme for WPSD 2024. Through the slogan 'Get it right, make it safe!', WHO calls for concerted efforts to reduce diagnostic errors through multimodal strategies and interventions, rooted in systems thinking, human factors and active engagement of patients, their families, health workers and health care leaders.

## Scope and objectives

WHO Patient Safety Flagship Unit in the Integrated Health Services Department, WHO headquarters, Geneva plans to organize a 2.5-day global consultation on 10-12 September in Geneva, Switzerland to commemorate WPSD 2024 and discuss the GPSAP 2021-2030 implementation progress.

The overall objective of the consultation is two-fold:

- Discuss the strategies for enhancing diagnostic processes and reducing diagnostic errors, within the framework of WPSD 2024.
- Reflect on the progress and challenges in implementing the GPSAP 2021-2030 based on the results from the GPSR 2024 and agree on the approaches to effectively integrate patient safety interventions into health systems.

### **The specific objectives of the consultation are the following:**

- Raise awareness about the burden of diagnostic errors and the systemic challenges in the diagnostic journey.
- Identify gaps in science and strategies at policy, organizational and point of care levels that impact diagnostic safety.
- Discuss the approach for integrating new methodologies that support safer and more accurate diagnoses.
- Agree on an implementation model for improving diagnostic safety and the role each stakeholder plays in operationalizing the model.
  
- Present the GPSR 2024 and discuss GPSAP implementation progress.
- Identify the best practices and areas that require improvement and targeted action.
- Discuss recent research, data analytics, and trends in patient safety implementation science to guide future strategies and interventions.
- Agree on the approach to boost the implementation of the GPSAP.

### **Expected outcomes:**

- The agreed upon implementation model for improving diagnostic safety, including the road map to close the research and implementation gap.
- The agreed upon actionable recommendations on approaches for countries and organizations to prioritize and implement strategies outlined in the GPSAP, and monitor their implementation, within the broader health system strengthening context.
- Strengthened networks and partnerships among global health leaders, policymakers, and practitioners to sustain momentum in patient safety improvements.

## Participants

The global consultation will involve representatives from selected Member States (in agreement with WHO Regional Offices), experts from international agencies, civil society organizations, regional and economic integration organizations, academic and research institutions, patients, their representatives and advocates, WHO Collaborating Centers, WHO staff from WHO headquarters and regional offices.