

Statement on Global Action on Patient Safety

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The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) welcomes the Global Patient Safety Action Plan.

WONCA's mission is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through Family Medicine values, that include promoting personal, comprehensive, and continuing care for the individual and the family in the context of the community and society, fostering high standards of care to guarantee patient safety first, and avoiding harm.

WONCA's activities on quality and patient safety are developed through academic organizations, forums for exchange of knowledge and a WONCA Working Party on Quality and Safety in Family Medicine (WP). The WP promotes information exchange and implementation of safe practices in primary care, endorsing Global Patient Safety Challenges which include hand-hygiene, medication without harm, learning from patient safety incidents, and giving support to patients, families, and health professionals in the aftermath of adverse events.

WONCA members have contributed to the development and launching of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan and are committed to continuing its strong collaboration with WHO through consultations, the promotion of the plan, and celebration of the yearly World Patient Safety Day

Family doctors manage health risk to guarantee safe care for patients, the community, and the primary care workforce. As leaders of primary care teams, they ensure safe patient care by implementing safe practices with members of their teams and teaching their trainees. They are trusted leaders in their communities and are committed to encouraging patients and families as partners in safe care.

WONCA encourages governments to invest in strong and safe primary care, in support of the health workforce and in health information systems, as the best efficient initiatives to achieve safe universal health coverage. Our vision is that the provision of quality healthcare in a safe environment should be universally available to all peoples.