

NCPS Mission: To continuously improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery in the region.

NCPS Update: December 2024

A Message from the Patient Safety

Program Director

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In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted the Global Patient Safety Plan 2021-2030.

This was a foundational action in their efforts to confront the challenge of patient harm in health care settings. Patient harm in health care settings is currently estimated to result in over three million deaths globally each year with half of those being preventable. The action plan includes seven strategic objectives (i.e., policies to eliminate avoidable harm in health care; high-reliability systems; safety of clinical processes; patient and family engagement; health worker education, skills and safety; information, research and risk management; synergy, partnership and solidarity) and aims to eliminate avoidable harm in health care and empower patients and their families to demand and receive safer care.



As a progress check, WHO surveyed member countries regarding their accomplishments of the strategic objective outlined in that plan. Based on the survey results from 108 member countries, covering 84% of the global population, the [2024 Global Patient Safety Report](#) [i] was released. The report highlights commendable progress made by many countries, but also underscores the improvement work yet needed. The patient safety work NCPS and its member organizations perform are in alignment with the strategies within the Global Patient Safety Plan 2021-2030. It is informative and interesting to compare the patient safety work being performed in the United States with other nations. Listed below are several of the survey's specific findings:

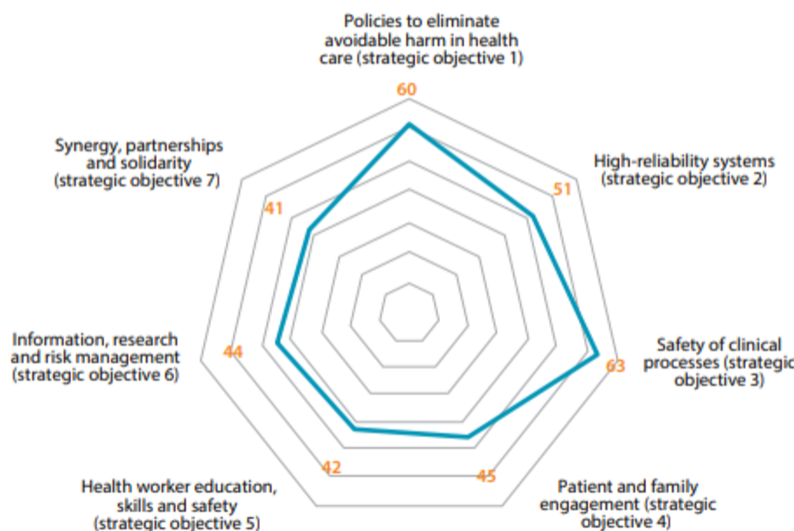
- Although the significance of human factors in health care is increasingly acknowledged globally, only around 25% of countries have started to implement human factors principles in patient safety measures in clinical practice, information technology solutions, and service delivery systems.
- A proactive and systematic approach to managing patient safety risks involves meticulous identification, examination and mitigation of potential hazards and risks in health care settings. Only 25% of countries report implementation of risk management strategies and conduct regular mock drills.
- Two thirds of countries have endorsed and are implementing the third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm. However, only a quarter of

countries are actively addressing all three priority areas of the Challenge: high-risk situations, transitions of care, and polypharmacy.

- Patient safety in primary and ambulatory care is less prioritized compared to safety in hospitals, with only 17% of countries systematically including safety in primary care programs.
- Understanding of patient safety is essential for all health workers, yet comprehensive integration of patient safety in health professional education and training remains limited globally. Only around one fifth of countries have incorporated patient safety in undergraduate and postgraduate professional education.
- Although patient safety incident reporting and learning systems have been introduced in 70% of countries, their effectiveness remains limited, and only in one third of countries do the majority of health care facilities actively report safety incidents to these systems.
- Nearly 20% of countries report having established patient safety networks that facilitate program coordination and sharing of best practices.

[i] World Health Organization; WHO Global Report on Patient Safety 2024. ISBN 9789240095458

► **Fig. Global status on progress on strategic objectives of Global patient safety action plan 2021–2030**
(performance scores out of 100)



NCPS Shared Learning Resources

This month's Shared Learning Resource is a Patient Safety Brief on the topic of Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Programs (SPHM). In the review of cases NCPS receives from members, a large number demonstrate the need for improvements in member organization's Safe Patient Handling Programs. This Shared Learning provides tools and resources for you to utilize as you review the status of your current program. A robust SPHM is of benefit to health care workers, to the patients cared for, and for the financial stability of the organization. The resource may be found on the NCPS website within the members only section of the [Educational Resources](#) tab.

NAHQ Micro-Credentials: Health Data Analytics

This educational course is the first in NAHQ's launch of their new micro-credentialing program; a program designed to help healthcare quality professionals gain proficiency within the individual domains of the NAHQ Healthcare Quality Competency Framework. Health Data Analytics is foundational for a quality professional working to improve the quality and patient safety in their work setting. The module is comprehensive and features a combination of video instruction from healthcare quality experts, interactive eLearning, text, downloadable resources, case studies, and knowledge checks.

The level of healthcare quality professional this course is targeted toward is Proficient/Advanced. An exam is required at the completion of the course and when a passing score is earned the learner is able to claim the NAHQ micro-credential for Health Data Analytics digital badge to display, as well as having earned CPHQ/CNE credit.

You can learn more about this course [here](#).

Patient Safety Resources

Protecting Parkinson's Patients: Hospital Care Standards to Avoid Preventable Harm

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is the second most prevalent neurodegenerative disorder in people over the age of 60. It is estimated that one million people in the U.S. are living with PD and the diagnosis is projected to double by 2040. This group of patients face disproportional rates of preventable and unintended harm in the acute care hospital setting.

In April 2023, the Parkinson's Foundation published a list of five hospital care standards for the care of PD patients. These recommendations are the result of a collaboration of experts including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, quality leaders, informaticists, physical and occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists. They were designed to address critical gaps contributing to patient harm: medication mismanagement, lack of mobility, and lack of dysphagia prevention and airway management. The paper may be found [here](#).

Pica Behavior in Acute Care Hospitals: Strategies for Screening and Mitigating Risk of Harm

Pica, the disorder involving a person's persistent ingestion of nonfood, foreign bodies (e.g., plastic, coins, hair, fibers, feces, garbage, medical equipment), is underdiagnosed and patient risk factors are not well screened or documented in medical settings. A recent article in the Pennsylvania Safety Authority's newsletter provides potential strategies (i.e., in the categories of screening, safety, documentation and care coordination) to mitigate risk associated with Pica behavior while a patient is an inpatient. The newsletter article may be found [here](#).

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