



World Health
Organization



World
Patient Safety
Day 17 September 2022

MEDICATION
WITHOUT HARM
Global Patient Safety Challenge

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Rationale



□ Huge burden of medication-related harm

- Medication-related harm **represents 50% of all preventable harm in medical care** with **prescribing and monitoring** errors contributing to the highest sources
- Medications mostly implicated are those that affect central nervous system and cardiovascular system
- Elderly are most affected due to increasing multi-morbidities and resulting polypharmacy (1)

1. Hodkinson *et al.* (2020) Preventable medication harm across health care settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Medicine* 18:313.
2. Aitken M, Gorokhovich L. Advancing the responsible use of medicines: applying levers for change. Parsippany (NJ), United States of America: IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics; 2012
3. OECD. Economics of Patient Safety. 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/Economics-of-Patient-Safety-October-2020.pdf>



Every person around the world will, at some point in their life,
take medicines to prevent or treat illness



Unsafe medication practices and medication errors are a leading cause of injury and avoidable harm in health care systems across the world



Medication-related harm accounts for up to half of the overall preventable harm in medical care





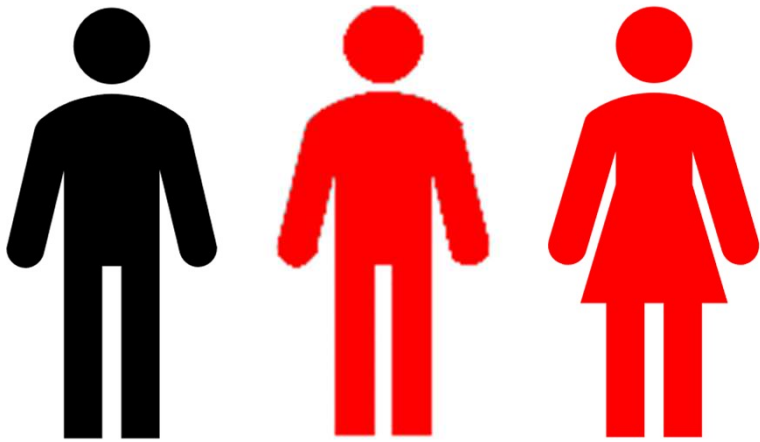
- Globally, the cost associated with medication errors has been estimated at US\$ 42 billion annually.
- In primary care alone across the OECD countries, this amounts to an average 8.8% of the GDP



The highest rates of avoidable medication harm occur during prescribing, administering and monitoring of medications



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Patients in low- and middle-income countries are twice more likely to experience preventable medication harm than patients in High-income countries

Objectives of World Patient Safety Day 2022

1. **RAISE** global awareness of the high burden of medication-related harm due to medication errors and unsafe practices, and **ADVOCATE** urgent action to improve medication safety
2. **ENGAGE** key stakeholders and partners in the efforts to prevent medication errors and reduce medication-related harm
3. **EMPOWER** patients and families to be actively involved in the safe use of medication
4. **SCALE UP** implementation of the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge:
Medication Without Harm

The Strategic Framework of the Global Patient Safety Challenge



- ✓ Four domains of the Challenge:
 - Patients and the public
 - Health care professionals
 - Medicines
 - Systems and practices of medication.
- ✓ Four subdomains.
- ✓ Three key action areas
 - Medication safety in transitions of care
 - Medication safety in polypharmacy
 - Medication safety in high-risk situations

How can stakeholders enhance medication safety?

Policy-maker and programme managers



- Integrate medication safety into every stage of patient care
- Co-design, implement and evaluate the impact of medication safety programmes
- Establish a patient safety incident reporting and learning system
- Launch [Know. Check. Ask.](#) as the medication safety campaign across the country

How can stakeholders enhance medication safety?

Health care leaders and facility managers



- Designate a multidisciplinary team
- Develop and implement standard operating procedures for safe medication use
- Have sufficient staff to cover patients' medication needs
- Provide trainings to health and care workers on safe medication use
- Operationalize incident reporting and learning system
- Create a safety culture
- Prioritize action in areas where most medication-related harm occurs, such as high-risk situations, transitions of care and polypharmacy

How can stakeholders enhance medication safety?

Health and care workers



- Keep their skills in safe medication practices up to date
- Engage patients through shared decision-making
- Provide clear medication-related information to all members of the clinical team
- Report and share medication safety incidents
- Mindful of situations where risk from medications is high
- They should mentor new members of their team on safe medication systems and practices

How can stakeholders enhance medication safety?

Patients, families and general public



- Check with their health worker that they have all the information they need
- Keep an up-to-date list of all medications
- Take their medications as recommended by their health worker
- They should be aware of the potential side-effects of their medications
- Storing of medications as indicated
- Raising concerns about their medications with your health worker

5 Moments for Medication Safety



Starting a medication

- ▶ What is the name of this medication and what is it for?
- ▶ What are the risks and possible side-effects?



Taking my medication

- ▶ When should I take this medication and how much should I take each time?
- ▶ What should I do if I have side-effects?



Adding a medication

- ▶ Do I really need any other medication?
- ▶ Can this medication interact with my other medications?



Reviewing my medication

- ▶ How long should I take each medication?
- ▶ Am I taking any medications I no longer need?



Stopping my medication

- ▶ When should I stop each medication?
- ▶ If I have to stop my medication due to an unwanted effect, where should I report this?

The 5 Moments for Medication Safety are the key moments where action by the patient or caregiver can greatly reduce the risk of harm associated with the use of their medication/s. Each moment includes 5 critical questions. Some are self-reflective for the patient and some require support from a health professional to be answered and reflected upon correctly.

This tool for patient engagement has been developed as part of the third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm.

It is intended to engage patients in their own care in a more active way, to encourage their curiosity about the medications they are taking, and to empower them to communicate openly with their health professionals.

This tool is intended for use by patients, their families and caregivers, with the help of health professionals, at all levels of care and across all settings.

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For more information, please visit:
<https://www.who.int/patientsafety/medication-safety/5moments/en/>





Call for action
Know. Check. Ask.

WHO Technical resources

Publications

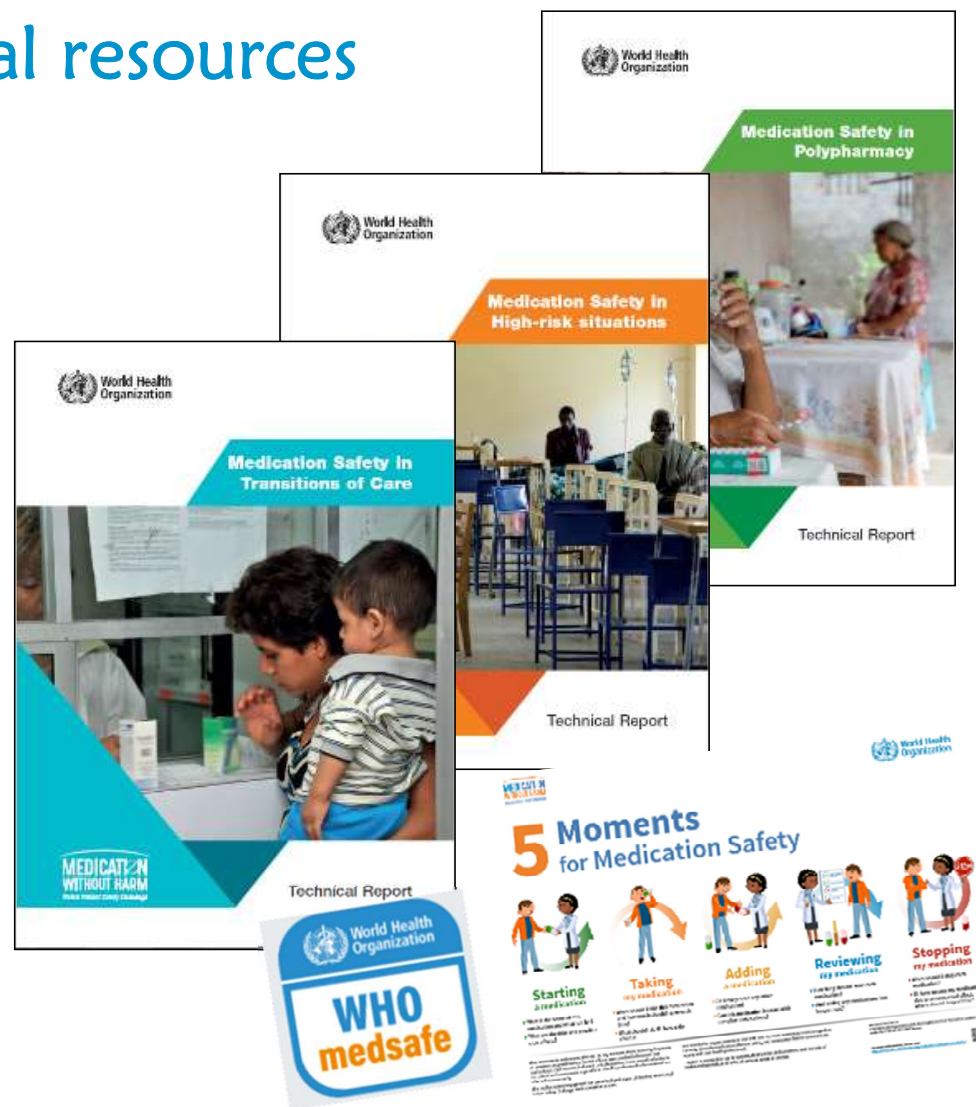
1. Technical reports

- ✓ Transitions of care
- ✓ High-risk situations
- ✓ Polypharmacy

2. Patient engagement tool:

- ✓ 5 Moments for Medication Safety: different formats including mobile application

3. Strategic framework





Illuminate your monuments in orange on
17 September

Join us in achieving...

Medication Without Harm



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