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World Patient Safety Day, 17 September 2024

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them that WHO is working with international and national stakeholders to plan for World Patient Safety Day 2024, which will be observed and celebrated across the world on 17 September.

World Patient Safety Day was established in May 2019 by the World Health Assembly through the adoption of resolution WHA72.6 on “Global action on patient safety”. The day is to be marked annually on 17 September with the aim of increasing public awareness and engagement, enhancing global understanding, and working towards global solidarity and action by Member States to promote patient safety. The resolution urges Member States to mark World Patient Safety Day annually to promote all aspects of patient safety including progress towards reaching national milestones.

The theme selected for World Patient Safety Day 2024 is “**Improving diagnosis for patient safety**” in recognition of the critical importance of correct and timely diagnoses in providing safe health care. Resolution WHA72.6 and the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030 highlight the need for ensuring the safety of diagnostic processes. The global action plan encourages countries to adopt strategies that reduce diagnostic errors, which often arise from a combination of cognitive and system factors that impact the recognition of patients’ key signs and symptoms, and the interpretation and communication of their test results. A diagnostic error is the failure to establish a correct and timely explanation of a patient’s health problem, which can include delayed, incorrect, or missed diagnoses, or a failure to communicate that explanation to the patient. Through the slogan “**Get it right, make it safe!**”, WHO calls for concerted efforts to significantly reduce diagnostic errors through multifaceted interventions rooted in systems thinking, human factors and active engagement of patients, their families, health workers and health care leaders.

WHO headquarters, WHO regional offices, and WHO country offices will be pleased to work with Member States to make this day a great success in 2024 by laying a strong foundation for action to address diagnostic errors. Further information and the campaign announcement are available at WHO website: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/09/17/default-calendar/world-patient-safety-day-17-september-2024-improving-diagnosis-for-patient-safety>.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 6 June 2024