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## **World Patient Safety Day, 17 September 2026**

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 2026, 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 aims of World Patient Safety Day, to be marked annually on 17 September, are to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global solidarity, and mobilize action by Member States to promote patient safety in line with national objectives and milestones.

In recognition of the increased risk of patient safety incidents across the continuum of care for noncommunicable diseases, the theme selected for World Patient Safety Day 2026 is “**Safe care for noncommunicable diseases**”.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are a global health priority, as reaffirmed by Member States in the 2025 United Nations’ General Assembly Political Declaration on the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and well-being. Strengthening safety in NCD care is essential to achieving universal health coverage and advancing progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 3, namely reducing premature mortality from NCDs. Addressing patient safety in NCDs requires attention to disease-related factors, including the long-term and complex nature of these conditions; health system challenges, such as fragmented and poorly coordinated care; and determinants of health that may increase the risk of harm. Through the slogan “**Safe care for life!**”, WHO calls for concerted efforts to improve patient safety across the continuum of NCD care, from prevention and early detection to treatment, long-term care and self-management. The campaign also emphasizes partnering with people with lived experience, alongside health workers, to co-develop solutions that strengthen the design and delivery of safe health services.

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 2026. Further information and the campaign announcement are available on the [WHO website](#).

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

GENEVA, 1 June 2026