

Joint Statement from ISQua and IHF for World Patient Safety Day

Today, on the first World Patient Safety Day, the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) and the International Hospital Federation (IHF) join in the worldwide celebration of World Patient Safety Day. ISQua and IHF are committed to improving patient safety and healthcare quality worldwide. This permeates and guides all of our deliberations and work.

We make our statement based on five key principles.

1. The right of people to safe and high-quality care

IHF and ISQua believe that safe, high-quality universal health care is a right for all people worldwide. This will require a redesign of services to ensure that safety is at the core of all activities.

2. The importance of person-centred care as the foundation for safety

IHF and ISQua believe that Patient Safety must be central to all initiatives to improve care. This requires placing people in control of their own healthcare and supporting healthcare providers with the skills, knowledge and equipment to deliver safe care.

3. The essential nature of a safety culture to facilitate safe care

This transformation requires a culture that facilitates transparency and openness. Leaders need to design services to be safe and to foster an environment in which people can provide safe care.

4. The need to base all interventions on Patient Safety Theory and Methodologies to improve processes and outcomes, for example:

- Establish a Patient Safety Team to proactively develop safe practices and to manage risk and incidents led by qualified risk management personnel.
- To continuously fight against Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI's) with monitoring systems and effective incentives, to achieve Zero HAI's
- To support and implement the WHO Safety Challenges on Medicine Safety and Safer Surgery
- To address other potential risks of harm in their own context
- To improve communication and teamwork as the foundation for patient safety
- To introduce Human Factors training for all staff.

5. The importance of learning from what works well

We believe that in addition to learning from adverse events we need to study the many occurrences of good outcomes to build resilience in those who provide care. These successes need to be shared to have a sustained impact on improving the safety of healthcare.

ISQua and IHF endorse the message of the World Health Organization (WHO) to **'Speak up for patient safety!'** We are confident that all of our members share our principles and are working towards the goal of Zero Harm.

About ISQua

The International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) is a member-based, not-for-profit community that delivers a variety of initiatives and programmes. Our mission is to inspire and empower people to advocate for and facilitate improvements in the quality and safety of healthcare worldwide.

Each member of the community gains from ISQua's three core values: Knowledge, Network and Voice.

- **Knowledge:** Learn from a wide range of international experts and start making improvements within your own personal context.
- **Network:** Expand your professional network, make new contacts and become a valued member of our community.
- **Voice:** Share your thoughts, ideas and opinions, and showcase your research with like-minded peers. Be recognised for your contribution to the community.

We offer Community Membership, a range of Education Programmes, External Evaluation services, Communities of Practice, and a number of regional and international Events and Conferences. Our extensive network of health care professionals spans over 70 countries and 6 continents.

ISQua's members are continually striving towards quality improvement in health care around the world. Whatever your background or context within the world of healthcare, ISQua can help you to move closer towards your personal goals. Find out more at <https://www.isqua.org>.

About IHF

The International Hospital Federation (IHF) is an international not for profit, non-governmental membership organization.

Our members are worldwide hospitals and healthcare organizations having a distinct relationship with the provision of healthcare. We provide them with a platform for the exchange of knowledge and strategic experience as well as opportunities for international collaborations with different actors in the health sector.

Established in 1929 after the first International Hospital Congress in Atlantic City, USA as the International Hospital Association, it was re-named after the Second World War in 1947. With its Headquarters in Geneva the IHF is constituted under the Civil Code of Switzerland. The IHF recognizes the essential role of hospitals and health care organizations in providing health care, supporting health services and offering education. Our role is to help international hospitals work towards improving the level of the services they deliver to the population with the primary goal of improving the health of society. Find out more at <https://www.ihf-fih.org/>.