



CONGRESO

PATIENTS FOR PATIENT SAFETY (PFPS) US: PATIENT DRIVEN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL PATIENT SAFETY ACTION PLAN



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Unsafe care results in over 2.6 million deaths per year and is considered one of the world's leading causes of death. In 2019 the 72nd World Health Assembly issued a call to action, the "Global Action on Patient Safety", that called for Member States to "work in collaboration with other Member States, civil society organizations, patients' organizations, professional bodies, academic and research institutions, industry and other relevant stakeholders to promote, prioritize and embed patient safety in all health policies and strategies."

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with Member States and key international stakeholders, developed the "Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030" (GPSAP) that provides a strategic direction for concrete actions to be taken by countries, stakeholders (including patients, family members, patient organizations and civil society), health care facilities and WHO to co-produce safer care around the world.

PFPS US, a chapter of WHO's Patients for Patient Safety global Program, was launched in 2021 by patients and family members in the USA who had experienced medical error as a patient or in their families and were concerned that patient safety was getting marginalized and disappearing from government and organizational strategies and agendas (See "Who killed Patient Safety?"). PFPS US adopted the vision of WHO's GPSAP - "a world in which no one is harmed in healthcare and every patient receives safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere". The mission of PFPS US is to implement the recommendations of the WHO's GPSAP in the USA and around the world. Additionally, PFPS US is committed to supporting partners, policies, and protocols which ensure that both health equity and patient safety standards are incorporated across all healthcare, public health, and industry platforms for a safer and healthier system for all.

As engaged patient safety advocates for many years, we see too little progress in meeting the



goals set forth 20 years ago in the 1999 call to action, To Err is Human. We now believe the private-public partnership entrusted to take on the 3rd largest cause of preventable death in the United States and substantially improve patient safety is too fractured to meet the challenge.

PFPS US is a network of individuals and organizations that include patient safety activists and individuals who support the PFPS London Declaration, are oriented to and are active in achieving implementation of the WHO GPSAP in the USA and around the world and act consistently with WHO guidelines and expectations.

PFPS US also collaborates with civic and government partners including non-profit organizations, research organizations, government entities, educational organizations, accreditors, philanthropies and other civic organizations that commit by leadership action or board resolution to work cooperatively with patient safety activists to implement the WHO GPSAP. Additionally, PFPS US engages with healthcare partners, healthcare provider organizations and product manufacturers or distributors.

PFPS US has established the first patient led patient safety agenda in the USA with the following priorities:

Patient Safety as a Strategic Priority

- Re-assert patient safety as a budget, measurement and payment priority
- Establish greater national oversight and coordination of patient safety
- Identify and close the health equity safety gap for all patient populations Patient and Family Engagement

- Put mechanisms in place to include diverse patients-families in co-development of policy, standards, programs and guidelines Patient Safety Reporting
- Redesign the reporting system of harm events to be mandatory (with penalties when failure to report), and to improve accuracy, timeliness and effective learning
- Expand the spectrum of events to be reported and allow patient-families to submit event reports and patient reported experiences of safety Transparency
- Require standards for timely communication and disclosure to inform patient-families of a harm event
- Review and enforce standards for patient access to medical records Safety of Clinical Practices
- Drive infection prevention and control for antimicrobial resistance
- Establish standards and implement 'Medication Without Harm'
- Improve Maternal and Infant Morbidity and Mortality

In alignment with the World Health Organization's Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030, we call upon policymakers and healthcare leaders to engage with urgency and be accountable for preventing avoidable harm. We pledge to work with leaders who have the courage to implement a nationwide approach to patient safety in partnership with the patient and family community. We support initiatives to set forth standards, enforce them, invest in research and innovation, be transparent, continuously learn, and provide fair remedies when people experience avoidable harm caused by actions or failures to act responsibly.