



Fact Sheet

An Overview of the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide: Multi-professional Edition

The Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide is a comprehensive guide for patient safety education in the fields of dentistry, medicine, midwifery, nursing and pharmacy. The Curriculum Guide lays the foundations for capacity-building in essential patient safety principles and concepts.

Why was the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide developed ?

Patient safety education has not kept pace with other advances in patient safety, nor with workforce requirements. The introduction of patient safety in health professional education is therefore necessary and timely. It will contribute to building a foundation of knowledge and skills that will better prepare students for clinical practice. It will help generate a future workforce of health-care professionals educated in patient safety and capable of meeting the demands of today's complex health-care environments. The creation of a patient safety curriculum with a multi-professional perspective, a systems approach and a global reach is, therefore, a significant step in the quest to improve the safety of health care around the world. The Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide is the first product that addresses this need on a global scale. It will be released later in 2011.

The aims of the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide are to:

1. support patient safety education by creating and disseminating curriculum resources to facilitate the training of health-care students and prepare them for safe practice in the workplace;
2. provide a Curriculum Guide that can be easily adapted to suit the educational needs in patient safety of health-care students and educators;
3. empower health-care schools and universities to build capacity in teaching patient safety;
4. ensure the Curriculum Guide is at all times culturally sensitive to the needs of all countries and applicable to different health education systems;
5. raise awareness and engage commitment of the need for patient safety teaching and learning.

What is the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide?

The Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide is an updated version of the 2009 Patient Safety Curriculum Guide for Medical Schools. In addition to the area of medicine, the multi-

professional edition includes input from the areas of dentistry, midwifery, nursing and pharmacy, gained through collaboration with educators, clinicians and policy-makers from around the world, as well as representatives from the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Pharmaceutical Federation, (FIP), the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), the World Dental Federation (FDI), the World Medical Association (WMA) and the equivalent international associations of students.

The Curriculum Guide comprises two parts. Part A is an educator's guide designed to introduce patient safety concepts to faculty and relates to building capacity for patient safety education, programme planning and design. Part B provides an all-inclusive, ready-to-teach, topic-based patient safety programmes that can be used as a whole, or on a per topic basis. There are 11 patient safety topics, each designed to feature a variety of ideas and methods for teaching and assessing students. Each topic supports educators to tailor material according to their own unique needs, context and resources. The topics in Part B are listed in the table below.

Topic 1: What is patient safety?	Topic 7: Using quality-improvement methods to improve care
Topic 2: Why applying human factors is important for patient safety	Topic 8: Engaging with patients and carers
Topic 3: Understanding systems and the effect of complexity on patient care	Topic 9: Infection prevention and control
Topic 4: Being an effective team player	Topic 10: Patient safety and invasive procedures
Topic 5: Learning from errors to prevent harm	Topic 11: Improving medication safety
Topic 6: Understanding and managing clinical risk	

Use of the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide

The Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide can be introduced into existing health-care curricula and can help assess the capacity within the university faculty to deliver the patient safety component. Some topics of patient safety link in well with existing teaching subjects and can be incorporated easily. Other topics are relatively new and are likely to require dedicated sessions. Evaluation of the 2009 Patient Safety Curriculum Guide for Medical Schools showed that the Curriculum Guide was highly valued for its structure and content by both educators and students.

Link: <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/education/curriculum/en/index.html>