



## Information Note 4

# Complementary Test Sites of the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide: Multi-professional Edition

### General Information

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.

The aims of the WHO 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 regarding the need for patient safety teaching and learning.

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 all-inclusive, ready-to-teach, patient safety topics that can be used as a whole, or on a per-topic basis. There are 11 patient safety topics. Each topic supports educators to tailor the material according to their own unique needs, context and resources. The topics in Part B are listed 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 Curriculum Guide can be introduced into existing health-care curricula and can help assess the capacity within the university faculty to deliver a 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 WHO Curriculum Guide was highly valued for its structure and content, by both educators and students.

## **Pilot testing the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide**

Pilot testing of the Patient Safety Curriculum Guide for Medical Schools was completed in 2010. The evaluation study of the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide will assess its effectiveness as a resource for teaching patient safety to undergraduate and graduate university students in the fields of dentistry, midwifery, nursing, pharmacy or any other allied health-care professions. An evaluation performed as part of the pilot testing will address the following questions:

- a. Does the Curriculum Guide contain sufficient information and topics to allow its effective use in the undergraduate training of health professionals?
- b. What is the impact on student learning of the inclusion of patient safety teaching in the Curriculum Guide?
- c. In what ways can this Curriculum Guide be used to support the widespread implementation of explicit patient safety education globally?
- d. How could the Curriculum Guide be modified in the future to best support teaching of patient safety to students in different environments?

The evaluation will inform all of the following specific aspects of use of the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide:

- The introduction and acceptability of the Curriculum Guide to universities and schools teaching dentistry, nursing, midwifery and pharmacy.
- The usability of the Curriculum Guide as an education tool for health education in universities and schools.
- The value of the Curriculum Guide to students.
- The impact/effect of the Curriculum Guide on students' knowledge of patient safety.
- Successes and challenges experienced by the schools in implementing the Curriculum Guide.
- Differences in experiences with the Curriculum Guide related to economic/cultural factors.
- Any improvements that could be made to the Curriculum Guide from both students and staff perspectives.

A total of 12 pilot sites have been selected to participate in the testing of the Curriculum Guide, two from each of the six WHO regions. Of these pilot sites, three will be nursing schools, three midwifery schools, three dentistry schools, and three pharmacy schools. At each participating university/school, data collection will begin in the first week of the course(s) and will end within two to three weeks after the completion of the course(s).

## **Complementary Test Sites of the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide**

A large number of universities and schools from around the world have expressed interest in actively participating in the Curriculum Guide testing phase, by introducing selected topics into existing university curricula and using all or some of the evaluation tools available in the Pilot Site Toolkit. These sites have been established as Complementary Test Sites.

Becoming a Complementary Test Site is open to all universities and schools in the fields of dentistry, medicine, midwifery, nursing, pharmacy or any other allied health-care profession around the world.

Outcomes from the Complementary Test Sites will form part of the overall global feedback on the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide and will feed into a final report about the achievements of the WHO Patient Safety Education programme.

The request to become a Complementary Test Site should be submitted to the following email address: [patientsafety@who.int](mailto:patientsafety@who.int). A basic information form will then be sent to each applicant university/school.

### **How to become a Complementary Test Site:**

The intention to undertake the testing of selected topics from the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide at your university or school.

### **A Complementary Test Site requires:**

- a letter of support or endorsement to WHO expressing interest in the WHO Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide. (Template letter attached);
- the submission of a request to the following email address: [patientsafety@who.int](mailto:patientsafety@who.int) marking the e-mail as 'CTS WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide: Multi-professional Edition';
- the submission of an Admin form for Complementary Test Sites;
- the assessment of a limited set of parameters before and after the implementation of selected topics from the Patient Safety Curriculum Guide:Multi-professional Edition;
- the preparation of a written report at the end of the testing phase, based on a 'template report' to be provided by WHO. The report, written in a standardized way across all participating Complementary Test Sites, will include information and data on specific aspects of testing of the Curriculum Guide, as feedback to WHO.
- the necessary approvals from local ethics committees (if required) and the sharing of a statement to WHO on its letterhead providing evidence of approval (if required).

### **What is the Pilot Site Toolkit ?**

- The Pilot Site Toolkit consists of a suite of information and evaluation notes, questionnaires and the Patient Safety Curriculum Guide: Multi-professional Edition. The toolkit aims to inform and support the implementation of selected topics from the Curriculum Guide, as well as its evaluation during two distinct phases: before the introduction of patient safety courses and upon completion of the courses.
- The actual Curriculum Guide:
  - Part A is aimed at health-care educators. It offers background information on how to select and teach each curriculum topic, makes suggestions on assessing institutional

capacity to integrate patient safety teachings, and provides techniques to explore how this subject can best fit into the institution's existing curricula. Part A also highlights the educational principles that are essential to patient safety teaching and learning and proposes approaches for student assessment, as well as evaluation of the current patient safety curricula.

- Part B addresses health-care educators and students. Each of the 11 patient safety topics (see above) is self-contained, can be introduced individually into the existing university curricula and is designed to feature a variety of methods and suggestions for teaching and assessing students' learning.
- Sets of PowerPoint 'teaching slides' for each of the topics addressed in Part B of the Curriculum Guide.
- Four Information Notes providing summaries of the 11 Patient Safety topics, how to implement the Curriculum Guide and suggestions on how to design its evaluation.
- Evaluation tools, including student questionnaires, which can be used before the introduction of the patient safety courses and after completion of courses.

### **What is the time frame?**

The overall time frame for testing the Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide begins with the formal appointment as a Complementary Test Site and can run for 8 to 10 months during 2011 and 2012.

### **Resource requirements**

- Each Complementary Test Site will agree to identify an on-site lead (or Implementation Coordinator) who will be in charge of communicating feedback to the WHO Curriculum Guide Evaluation team.
- Each Complementary Test Site will develop its own plan to introduce and evaluate patient safety topics from the Curriculum Guide.
- Evaluation at each Complementary Test Site may involve interviews or group discussions of key faculty members from the site and completing a range of students' surveys.
- The introduction and testing of selected patient safety topics from the Curriculum Guide will need support from senior university decision-makers and this will be reflected in a commitment to make resources available to the complementary site.
- The decision as to which of the 11 Curriculum Guide topics to be introduced lies within the faculty. It is recommended that at least four out of the 11 topics be taught, two of which should be Topic 1: What is Patient Safety, and Topic 4: Being an Effective Team Player.
- Other than making the required Curriculum Guide and Pilot Site Toolkit available and recommending steps for implementation and evaluation through the Toolkit, the WHO Curriculum Guide Evaluation team cannot provide any additional technical or financial support to the Complementary Test Sites. However, through a specific WHO web platform, the Complementary Test Sites can ask questions related to implementation of the Curriculum Guide topics and evaluation. Experiences and solutions related to implementation can thus be shared with a WHO moderator and across other test sites.
- Examples of costs which may be incurred by the Complementary Test Sites include: computer equipment; printing/stationary; internet access; data collection; staffing costs.
- It may be appropriate / necessary to seek ethics approval: Complementary Test Sites will make this decision based on individual country and university requirements.

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