

The Anniversary
**SAFE INJECTION GLOBAL NETWORK - SIGN -
10 YEARS: 1999 - 2009**

At the time of launch in October 1999, the SAFE INJECTION GLOBAL NETWORK was established and its Secretariat was hosted at WHO with a mission: "*to achieve safe and appropriate use of injections world-wide by concerted action under a common strategic framework*" and "*to focus on those procedures that contribute most to the transmission of blood borne pathogens.*"

Ten years later:

- Injection safety has gained visibility worldwide.
- SIGN has increased the budget exponentially
- SIGN has enjoyed continuous WHO support.
- SIGN has provided increased support to countries
- SIGN has significantly reduced the burden of unsafe injections globally.
- SIGN has increased communication through the weekly email newsletter SIGNpost

The Annual SIGN meeting
30 Nov - 2 Dec 2009
WHO Headquarters, Geneva

Programme highlights

Day one: 30 November 2009

1. Morning session

- **Review of 10 year recommendations to SIGN Secretariat** and a session on
- **"Unsafe injections and Hepatitis epidemics"** in view of the WHO Resolution on hepatitis to be introduced to the May 2010 WHA.

2. Afternoon session

➤ **Integrating Injection safety into the '4 Plus 1' Primary Health Care Reforms:**
Unsafe injections, that are affecting primarily the poor, are a violation of the basic right to equitable access to health, a major cause of diseases such as hepatitis and HIV and a terrible burden on countries.

Injection Safety is central to the Primary Health Care for All, the WHO stated objective in the 2008 World Health Report. Universal and equitable health coverage for every human being entails equal access to safe essential health technologies. Injection safety will be examined in light of the 4+1 Primary Health Care Reforms which are:

- Universal Coverage
- Service delivery
- Public policy
- Leadership
- And Community involvement

Day two: 1 December 2009

1. Morning session

➤ **Celebrating World AIDS day**

A panel will review the importance of Injection Safety in the Era of HIV,
*Injection safety is key component of HIV Prevention and a fundamental right of all patients,
including People Living with HIV*

➤ **Review of 10 year recommendations**

- **to countries,**
- **on health care workers safety and**
- **on sharps waste management**

The international alliance of stakeholder SIGN will review accomplishments and implementation
Reviewing where we stand and where we need to go.

2. Afternoon: 3 parallel sessions will examine the above in light of Primary Health Care oriented strategies, including:

- Country specific examples of injection safety implementation
- Importance of disease outbreak investigations to pinpoint breaks in injection safety and infection control
- Ways to involve lower level health care workers in safe injection practices and foster team work
- Patient safety as the core of good practice
- The continuum of sound waste management, from government responsibility to the community.

Day three: 2 December 2009

Morning: Summary reports and Recommendations of Parallel Sessions:

Injection safety progress and Primary Health Care in countries; health care workers safety; sound waste management : Main recommendations and way forward

Afternoon: Two satellite sessions on health care waste management and on occupational health are planned to allow further discussions on both key topics.