

## WHO GREETINGS FOR WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY 2022

I am honoured to commemorate "World Patient Safety Day" on 17 September 2022 which was established in 2019 to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding, and work towards global solidarity and action by Member States to promote patient safety.

Unsafe medication practices and medication errors are a leading cause of avoidable harm in health care across the world. Medication harm accounts for 50% of the overall preventable harm in medical care. In addition, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has significantly worsened the risk of medication errors and associated medication-related harm.

Acknowledging this substantial burden and recognizing the complexity of medication-related harm prevention and reduction, "**Medication Safety**" has been selected as the campaign theme for World Patient Safety Day 2022.

Medication errors occur when weak medication systems and human factors such as fatigue, overload in the workplace, staff shortages, affect prescribing, transcribing, dispensing, administration and monitoring practices, which can result in severe patient harm, disability and even death. Considering this huge burden of harm, "**Medication without harm**" has been selected as the slogan for World Patient Safety Day 2022 by calling to action **Know. Check. Ask.**

The specific objectives of this year's campaign include RAISING global awareness of the high burden of medication-related harm, ADVOCATING urgent action to improve medication safety, ENGAGING key stakeholders and partners in the efforts to prevent medication errors and EMPOWERING patients and families to be actively involved in the safe use of medication.

I'm pleased to note that since 2019, WHO jointly with Ministry of Health, the Center for Health Development and health care organizations has been implementing Global Patients Safety Initiative to implement a series of actions to enhance patient safety and reduce patient harm. Under this initiative, we supported the development of the national action plan on patient safety 2022-2025, capacity building trainings for patient safety including medication safety and establishing database for incident reporting and learning systems.

Using this opportunity on behalf of WHO, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ministry of Health, the Center for Health Development and health care organizations that lead World Patient Safety Day celebration every year last three years.

I invite you to join the celebration of the World Patient Safety Day 2022 and encourage all stakeholders within Mongolia to participate in the events and activities. With your support, we can promote safer medication use.

Thank you. Happy World Patient Safety Day!

**MS MONICA FONG, WHO ACTING REPRESENTATIVE TO MONGOLIA**