The event:

The Global Patient Safety Challenge of the World Alliance for Patient Safety, with the 2005-2006 theme "Clean Care is Safer Care" will be inaugurated by a group of countries in a special event taking place in Moscow on July 3rd 2006. Ministers of Health or their representatives from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan will sign a statement committing them to address health care-associated infection in their country. The group event is hosted by Russia and will be organized by the Federal Public Health Research Institute in Moscow.

As part of the one-day meeting, a technical workshop on infection prevention and control in health care will follow the inauguration event. More than 50 policy and decision makers will participate in the meeting and witness the signing of the country statements. The workshop will focus on the tools and implementation strategy of the newly developed WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care (Advanced Draft), as well as country achievements and plans to address the problem of health care-associated infection.

This event is a follow-up to the launch the Global Patient Safety Challenge: "Clean Care is Safer Care" on 13 October 2005, at WHO headquarters in Geneva. Following the global launch, WHO, in close collaboration with ministries of health from WHO Member States, is inaugurating this initiative in different parts of the world, and exploring how "Clean Care is Safer Care" can support country responses to improve the safety of health care. One of the major implementation strategies of "Clean Care is Safer Care" involves inviting ministers of health from each Member State to develop a written statement committing to address health care-associated infection.

Background:

In line with Resolution WHA55.18, which urges Member States to pay the closest possible attention to patient safety, a number of countries have already pledged their support to address this problem, and through this process we hope to deliver a strong message of the global commitment to address health care-associated infection. Almost 30 countries have already pledged support to address these infections or are planning to do so in the latter part of 2006.

The Global Patient Safety Challenge 2005-2006 "Clean Care is Safer Care", a core programme of the World Alliance for Patient Safety, aims to strengthen the commitment of Member States to address health care-associated infection. To achieve this goal, the initiative brings together the newly developed WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care (Advanced Draft) with ongoing actions on blood safety, injection...
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and immunization safety, safer clinical practices, and safe water, sanitation and waste management. Systematic efforts are being made to raise the profile of this issue on a global scale through awareness-raising campaigns and generating commitment through collaboration with governments and national health authorities.

Key elements of the implementation strategy of the Global Patient Safety Challenge "Clean Care is Safer Care" include:

- raising awareness globally of the impact of health care-associated infections on patient safety and promoting preventive strategies;
- inviting ministers of health from all WHO Member States to make a formal statement committing to address health care-associated infection in their country;
- testing the implementation of the WHO Guidelines along with selected actions from the other WHO strategies. This will occur within each of the six WHO regions.

More Information:  [http://www.who.int/patientsafety/events/05/GPSC_Launch_ENGLISH_FINAL.pdf](http://www.who.int/patientsafety/events/05/GPSC_Launch_ENGLISH_FINAL.pdf)

The implementation of the WHO Guidelines will be tested in six districts of WHO regions worldwide. A range of tools is being developed to support this work, including information and educational tools, and technical, assessment and evaluation frameworks.