

JOINT STATEMENT FOR WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY 2020

Today, on the second World Patient Safety Day, the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) and the International Hospital Federation (IHF) join in this worldwide celebration and support that **Safe Health Workers are essential for Safe Patients**. ISQua and IHF are committed to improving people safety and healthcare quality worldwide. We will thoroughly engage with the WHO Flagship Initiative: A Decade of Patient Safety 2020-2030 and will support key elements of the work to be undertaken during this decade, so that health and healthcare can be safe in the future.

We make our statement based on three key messages, acknowledging the fact that the safety culture has been continuously challenged during the past months.

People (patient & health worker) safety is inherent in healthcare and is based on coproduction.

It is a holistic culture that should be promoted throughout the continuum of care, from organizational processes to individual practices, and by all stakeholders (including the patients). As part of this, measurement, research, and identification of best practices should not be neglected. Key safety principles must be based on shared values such as transparency and willingness to overcome disciplinary barriers, and lead to a normalisation of patient & health worker safety.

Health worker physical and mental health are paramount. The Covid-19 crisis allowed to highlight the importance of health workers safety, beyond hospital walls. This calls for a reinforcement of occupational safety programs; proper training for qualified professionals; efficient guidelines for an increased crisis preparedness and management; and positive practice environments for a motivated staff.

The Covid-19 crisis is an opportunity to learn. Despite its dreadful impact on many lives and healthcare systems, this crisis is also an opportunity to learn and increase people safety culture. The pandemic is now the world's common enemy, but so should preventable harm. It is now important to share the lessons learnt worldwide, favour system-based approaches, and promote good practices to optimize the quality of care and the safety of people.

The spread of these messages and related key principles can be amplified in our global and flexible networks who rapidly disseminate what works and what can be learnt. ISQua and IHF endorse and promote the message of the World Health Organization (WHO) to '**Speak up for health worker safety!**'. We are confident that all our members share our principles and are working towards the elimination of preventable harm.



Eric de Roodenbeke, CEO
International Hospital Federation



Dr Peter Lachman, CEO
ISQua

About the International Hospital Federation (IHF)

Established in 1929, the IHF is an international not for profit, non-governmental membership organization with the vision of “A world of healthy communities served by well managed hospitals and health services where all individuals reach their highest potential for health.”

Its members are worldwide hospitals and healthcare organizations having a distinct relationship with and contribution to the provision of healthcare. IHF provides its members with a platform for the exchange of knowledge, strategies and experience as well as opportunities for international collaborations with different actors in the health sector.

IHF recognizes the essential role of hospitals and health care organizations in providing health care, supporting health services and offering education. Its role is to help international hospitals work towards improving the standard, quality and level of their service delivery to the population with the primary goal of improving the health of society. Find out more at www.ihf-fih.org.

About the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua)

The International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) is a member-based, not-for-profit community that delivers a variety of initiatives and programmes. Our mission is to inspire and drive improvement in health, and the safety and quality of healthcare worldwide.

When you join ISQua, you are investing in yourself, in addition to changing health care quality across the world. We foster a global community of passionate healthcare professionals, who are united by a single common goal: safer healthcare.

Being a member gives you access to ISQua’s global community, exclusive website content, discounts to our conferences, access to the International Journal for Quality in Health Care, exclusive access to industry experts and much more. Find out more at <https://www.isqua.org/membership.html>.

Join ISQua to improve your Knowledge, build your Network, and make your Voice heard.