
Media Release - September 16th, 2022

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) is pleased to partner with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the implementation of World Patient Safety Day 2022! This year, World Patient Safety Day will occur on September 17, 2022.

Medications are the most widely utilized interventions in health care, and medication-related harm constitutes the greatest proportion of the total preventable harm due to unsafe care, let alone the economic and psychological burden imposed by such harm. The theme of World Patient Safety Day is “Medication Safety” to acknowledge this substantial burden and to recognize the complexity of medication-related harm prevention and reduction.

The campaign consolidates the efforts of the existing [WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm](#), emphasizing the need to adopt a systems approach and promote safe medication practices to prevent medication errors and reduce medication-related harm. Special consideration will be given to areas where most harm occurs. The key action areas are high-risk situations, transitions of care, and polypharmacy.

There are four objectives for World Patient Safety Day this year.

1. **RAISE** global awareness of the high burden of medication-related harm due to medication errors and unsafe practices, and **ADVOCATE** urgent action to improve medication safety.
2. **ENGAGE** key stakeholders and partners in the efforts to prevent medication errors and reduce medication-related harm.
3. **EMPOWER** patients and families to be actively involved in the safe use of medication.
4. **SCALE UP** implementation of the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm.

“We join with the WHO in calling for urgent action to improve medication safety,” said Carolyn Hoffman, ISMP Canada’s CEO. “Our team supports health leaders, providers, patients and families to all play a role in reducing the high number of errors.”

Theresa Malloy-Miller, Past Co-Chair, Patients for Patient Safety Canada (PFPS) said that “Medication safety has been a central focus for PFPS members given the frequency of patient safety incidents involving medication issues including over medication, medication errors and medication side effects. Over the past 16 years PFPS has collaborated with partners like ISMP Canada and Health Canada to contribute to safe medication practices like clear and plain labelling of medications, medication reconciliation and inclusion of patients and families in all aspects of decision making around medication use. Ensuring the patient voice is central in discussions about safe medication practices is essential to develop workable and effective practices.”

Individuals and organizations across Canada and around the world will take part in a variety of activities to acknowledge the day.

About the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada)

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada is a national, independent, and not-for-profit organization that purposefully partners with organizations, practitioners, consumers, and caregivers to advance medication safety in all healthcare settings. For more information, www.ismpcanada.ca and/or contact Carolyn Hoffman, CEO, ISMP Canada, Carolyn.hoffman@ismpcanada.ca