

WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PATIENT SAFETY

GLOBAL PATIENT SAFETY CHALLENGE

2005 - 2006



CLEAN CARE IS SAFER CARE



World Health
Organization

WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PATIENT SAFETY

GLOBAL PATIENT SAFETY CHALLENGE

2005 - 2006

CLEAN CARE IS SAFER CARE



WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PATIENT SAFETY

GLOBAL PATIENT SAFETY CHALLENGE

2005 · 2006



WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

World Alliance for Patient Safety.
Global Patient Safety Challenge : 2005-2006 / World Alliance for Patient Safety.

1.Patient care - standards 2.Cross infection - prevention and control 3.Infection control - methods 4.Health facilities - standards I.Title.

ISBN 92 4 159373 3

(NLM classification: WX 167)

© World Health Organization 2005

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 2476; fax: +41 22 791 4857; email: bookorders@who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press, at the above address (fax: +41 22 791 4806; email: permissions@who.int).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by WHO to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland



Contents

Simple measures save lives.	1
Preventing infection associated with health care: a patient safety priority	3
The Global Patient Safety Challenge.	7
How the Global Patient Safety Challenge works	
Elements of the Global Patient Safety Challenge	11
Blood safety	
Injection practices and immunization	
Water, basic sanitation and waste management	
Clinical procedures safety	
Hand hygiene	
Implementing the Global Patient Safety Challenge	21
Links to other action areas of the World Alliance for Patient Safety	
The potential to make a difference.	23
Conclusion.	25



Simple measures save lives

“Clean Care is Safer Care” is the title of the Global Patient Safety Challenge for 2005-2006. The focus is on preventing infection associated with health care, and the core message is: simple measures save lives.

Hand hygiene is one very simple action that can greatly reduce health care-associated infection and its risks. The Global Patient Safety Challenge for 2005-2006 will bring together the WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care (Advanced Draft) with ongoing actions on blood safety, injection and immunization safety, safer clinical practices, and safer water, sanitation and waste management.

The Global Patient Safety Challenge will catalyse commitment by all players – policy-makers, international experts, front-line staff, patients and managers – to make clean care and, therefore, safer care an everyday reality in all countries.

It is fitting that the World Alliance for Patient Safety has selected health care-associated infection as the topic for its first Global Patient Safety Challenge. These infections are a major patient safety concern. They affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide every year. Infections take their toll in terms of avoidable patient deaths and disability. They also waste scarce health-care resources. No country can claim to have solved the problem completely.

Indeed, health care-associated infection is growing as a problem. Patients are becoming more susceptible to infections because of more serious underlying illnesses. Poor compliance with hand hygiene by health-care staff, lack of access to safe water, unclean instruments and environmental surfaces all contribute to the problem. The environment of patient care is also important. Factors such as understaffing, high levels of bed occupancy and increased transfer of patients, all create new risks of infection.

The world has the knowledge and resources to dramatically reduce the impact of health care-associated infection. What is needed is commitment and action at all levels, to ensure that every patient’s right to the cleanest and safest care is achieved. We want every country, every hospital and every health clinic around the world to support the Global Patient Safety Challenge. The opportunity for action has never been greater, nor its need more urgent.



Sir Liam Donaldson
Chair
World Alliance for Patient Safety