



To: Editors & Health Journalists
Issued by: Department of Health
Date: 16 September, 2020

MEDIA INVITATION

World Patient Safety Day Webinar
Safe health workers Safe Patients

Time: 10h00 to 11h30
Date: Thursday 17 September

"Nobody should suffer harm in the course of health care. But, the World Health Organization estimates, some 13* million adverse events take place annually in low- and middle-income countries and contribute to some 2.6 million deaths. In developed countries as many as four out of 10 patients experience harm in primary care and ambulatory settings.

In 2011, the World Health Assembly designated 17 September as a day to raise global awareness of this substantial issue and mobilise attention to tackle the underlying problems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the extent to which patient safety depends on health worker safety, and the need to address these issues as one. As a result, the theme for World Patient Safety Day this year is: Health worker safety: a priority for patient safety.

Under the immense pressure of the coronavirus pandemic, South African health systems have faced the challenges of health worker and patient protection and learnt previous lessons about safety. Much work remains to be done and now is the time to build for the future. While the lessons are fresh.

Health workers and representatives of a range of health organisations will be joining the Department of Health and the South African office of WHO to reflect on next steps in health worker and patient safety in a webinar to mark the day.

Health Minister Dr. David Mahlosi