



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Provisional Agenda item 16.2

*Sixtieth session*

SEA/RC60/18

*Thimphu, Bhutan*

*31 August – 3 September 2007*

13 July 2007

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON SELECTED RESOLUTIONS/  
DECISIONS OF THE LAST THREE YEARS:  
PROMOTING PATIENT SAFETY IN HEALTH CARE**

“Promoting patient safety at health care institutions” was the topic for Technical Discussions at the Forty-third Meeting of the Consultative Committee for Programme Development and Management (CCPDM) held in 2006. This paper documents the progress made in the Region in the area of Promoting Patient Safety in Health Care through various activities such as advocacy, capacity building, country visits and research.

Furthermore, the Regional Office is working with Member countries of the Region to ensure patient safety in the areas of blood safety; injection and immunization safety; health care waste management and drug safety. Programmes like Making Pregnancy Safer, Child Health and Strengthening Human Resources for Health continue to support the Region’s activities in this regard.

This document was discussed at the Joint Meeting of Health Secretaries and the CCPDM, held in the Regional Office, New Delhi from 2-6 July 2007. The Joint Meeting made the following recommendations:

**Action by Member States**

- (1) To implement programme activities as stipulated in SEA/RC59/R3 on promoting patient safety in health care.
- (2) To develop/strengthen programmes on patient safety through intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration, including private sector.

**Action by WHO-SEARO**

- (1) To support/facilitate Member States in the implementation of programme activities as stipulated in SEA/RC59/R3 on promoting patient safety in health care, including South–South collaboration.
- (2) To develop a minimal data set of patient safety indicators for the Region, in close collaboration with Member States.
- (3) To document and share the rich country experiences from the Member States.

The document is now submitted to the Sixtieth session of the Regional Committee for its consideration.

## **Promoting Patient Safety in Health Care**

1. The following activities were carried out in the South-East Asia Region in the area of Promoting Patient Safety in Health Care:

### **Advocacy**

- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Thailand and Indonesia signed national pledges to address health care-associated infection under the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge, “Clean Care is Safer Care”.
- In conjunction with the above, the ministries of health of India, Bangladesh and Thailand prepared technical reports and organized sessions covering areas such as blood safety, injection safety, and health care waste management.

### **Capacity Building**

- A Regional Workshop on “Clean Care is Safer Care” was held in Bangkok, Thailand (18-22 June 2007), to build capacity to prevent health care-associated infections with a focus on hand hygiene.
  - A Regional Patient Safety Workshop on “Patients for Patient Safety” was held in Jakarta, Indonesia (17-19 July 2007), to engage patients and consumers as partners in all aspects of quality and safety initiatives.
  - A Regional Patient Safety Workshop on “Safe Surgery at the First Level of Care” will be held in Paro, Bhutan (19-21 October 2007), to promote safe clinical procedures at first level emergency surgical care.
2. Country consultations (towards the development of strategic framework and package of interventions)
- Site visits were conducted in Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and are scheduled in the latter half of July 2007 in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
  - The regional workshops described above are also part of the consultative process

### **Research**

- Thailand co-chaired the First Meeting of the Expert Working Group to advance Recommendations for Strengthening the Infrastructure for Patient Safety Research held in Bangkok (10-11 December 2006).
- Thailand is a member of the Expert Working Group to Establish Priority Areas for Research on Patient Safety as well as the Expert Working Group to Develop Research Methodologies and Tools in Data-poor Settings.
- The draft WHO “Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care” are being field tested at the Chittagong Medical College in Bangladesh.

### **Publications**

- A review article entitled “Placing patient safety at the heart of quality in health care in South-East Asia” was published in the 2006-2007 Reference Book of the International Hospital Federation (IHF).