

109th Session EB109.R16

Agenda item 3.4 18 January 2002

Quality of care: patient safety

The Executive Board.

RECOMMENDS to the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on quality of care: patient safety;¹

Concerned that the incidence of adverse events is a challenge to quality of care, a significant avoidable cause of human suffering, and a high toll in financial loss and opportunity cost to health services;

Noting that significant enhancement of health systems' performance can be achieved in Member States by preventing adverse events in particular, and improving patient safety and health care quality in general;

Recognizing the need to promote patient safety as a fundamental principle of all health systems,

REQUESTS the Director-General in the context of quality improvement:

- (1) to develop global norms, standards and guidelines for the definition, measurement and reporting of adverse events and near misses in health care, and to provide support to countries in developing reporting systems, taking preventive action, and implementing measures to reduce risks;
- (2) to promote framing of evidence-based policies, including global standards that will improve patient care, with particular emphasis on such aspects as product safety, safe clinical practice in compliance with appropriate guidelines and safe use of medicinal products and medical devices, and creation of a culture of safety within health care organizations;

¹ Document EB109/9.

- (3) to develop mechanisms, for example through accreditation and other means, to recognize the characteristics of health care providers that offer a benchmark for excellence in patient safety internationally;
- (4) to encourage research into patient safety.

Ninth meeting, 18 January 2002 EB109/SR/9

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