



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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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 healthcare. But, the World Health Organization estimates, some 134 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 2019, the World Health Assembly designated 17 September as a day to raise global awareness of this substantial issue and mobilise action 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 precious 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 Zweli Mkhize will be delivering opening address.

Panel members

WHO Country Representative Dr Owen Kaluwa
Denosa Deputy General Secretary Mr Daniel Manamela
Healthcare Workers Care Network Coordinator Dr Caroline Lee
Infection Control Africa Network Prof Shaheen Mehtar

Please register, using the link in the standard invitation (attached), in order to receive a link to access the seminar. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/yxnjdsn6> OR RSVP to:

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