

Standards of modern patient safety work

Tuija Ikonen, MD PhD

Professor of patient safety, University of Turku

Leader, Finnish Centre for Client and Patient Safety

tuija.ikonen@ovph.fi



Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030



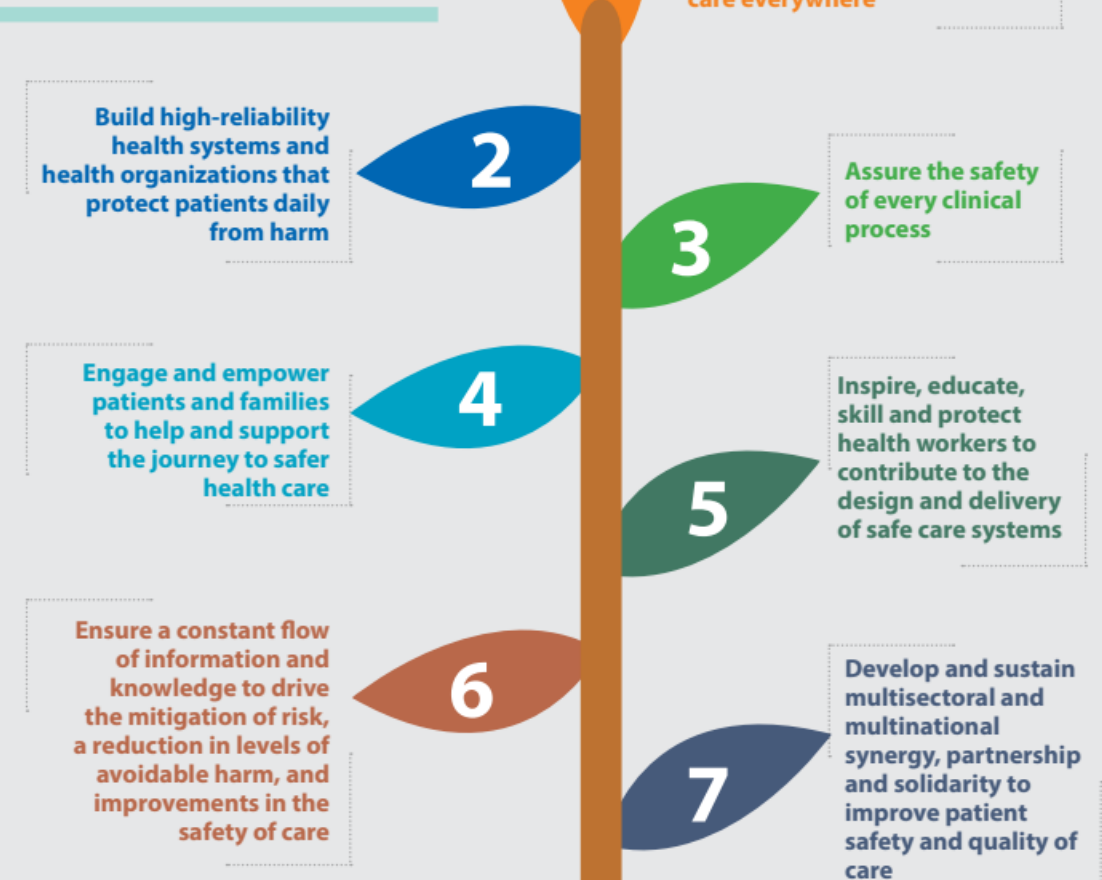
- Adopted by 74th World Health Assembly in 2021
- The purpose of the action plan is to provide strategic direction for all stakeholders for **eliminating avoidable harm** in health care and improving patient safety in different practice domains **through policy actions on safety and quality** of health services, as well as for **implementation of recommendations at the point of care.**
- A framework for countries to develop **national action plans** on patient safety, and for improving patient safety in all **clinical and health-related programmes.**



The definition of patient safety

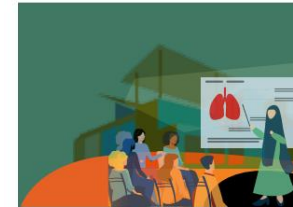
- **Patient safety is a framework of organized activities that creates cultures, processes, procedures, behaviours, technologies, and environments in healthcare that consistently and sustainably lower risks, reduce the occurrence of avoidable harm, make errors less likely and reduce the impact of harm when it does occur.**
- Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030
- This broadened perspective should have implications for patient safety education and associated study programs within healthcare and social care.

The framework includes seven strategic objectives, which can be achieved through 35 specific strategies:



Strategic objective 5

- Inspire, educate, skill and protect health workers to contribute to the design and delivery of safe care systems.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

5

Indicator

Number of countries that have incorporated a patient safety curriculum in education programmes or courses for health care professionals

Global targets

Percentage of countries that have incorporated a patient safety curriculum in education programmes or courses for health care professionals

2021	Baseline established
2023	30% of countries
2025	50% of countries
2027	70% of countries
2030	80% of countries

Source of data

Member State survey by WHO or partner institution



5

Health worker education, skills and safety

5.1 Patient safety in professional education and training

5.2 Centres of excellence for patient safety education and training

5.3 Patient safety competencies as regulatory requirements

5.4 Linking patient safety with appraisal system of health workers

5.5 Safe working environment for health workers

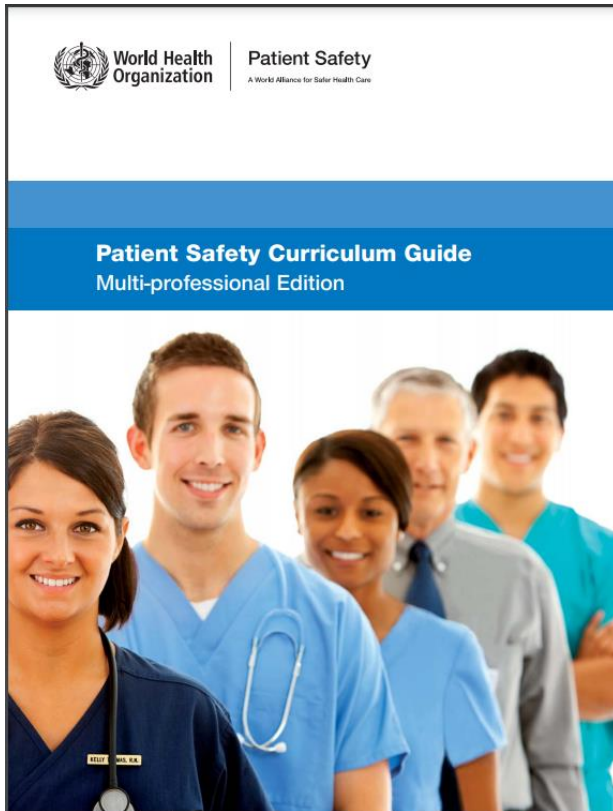
5.1: Incorporate patient safety within health professional under- and postgraduate education curricula and continuing professional development, with an emphasis on interprofessional learning.

- **Reach an agreement with stakeholders responsible for standards and curriculum setting to incorporate patient safety in professional education and continuing professional development.**
- **Introduce the WHO Patient safety curriculum guide at national level and adopt key approaches and principles within the local context.**
- Develop and offer specialized courses on patient safety for in-service training of health care professionals of different categories and at multiple levels.
- Include health and safety skills pertaining to personal safety in education curricula and training programmes with an interprofessional learning approach.
- **Include patient safety in induction and orientation programmes as well as on-the-job trainings for staff.**
- Introduce and implement specialized trainings on patient safety for all professional staff, with an emphasis on team- and task-based strategies that include bedside and simulation training, with certification of satisfactory completion. •
- **Provide advanced training on patient safety and quality improvement competencies for those with managerial and leadership roles. •**
- Encourage staff to take online and on-site courses on patient safety as part of continuing professional development. •
- Design specialized training programmes for staff working in high-risk areas such as intensive care and emergency departments.
- Convene a forum for representatives of educational institutions, professional organizations and bodies, scientific societies and experts from industry to advise government on the design, content and delivery of patient safety education and training programmes and support their implementation.

Are we aiming at these standards?



WHO: Patient Safety Curriculum since 2009



Topic 1: What is patient safety?

Topic 2: Why applying human factors is important for patient safety

Topic 3: Understanding systems and the effect of complexity on patient care

Topic 4: Being an effective team player

Topic 5: Learning from errors to prevent harm

Topic 6: Understanding and managing clinical risk

Topic 7: Using quality-improvement methods to improve care

Topic 8: Engaging with patients and carers

Introduction to Topics 9-11

Topic 9: Infection prevention and control

Topic 10: Patient safety and invasive procedures

Topic 11: Improving medication safety

272 pages to support teaching and learning patient safety!

The Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide (2011) was developed to assist in the teaching of patient safety in universities and schools in the fields of dentistry, medicine, midwifery, nursing and pharmacy. It also supports the on-going training of all health care professionals.

Implementation of PS-curriculum and competencies – progress and challenges in ten years:



Implementation of the WHO curriculum

Study of 102 countries by WHO (2023):

- ~20 % have incorporated a **patient safety curriculum** in education programs or courses for healthcare professionals.
- ~50 % have some **elements of patient safety** included in curricula
- ~10 % have an **adequate numbers of trainers** to provide patient safety training.
- ~25 % of countries had **defined the competencies required** for each category of professionals for patient safety.

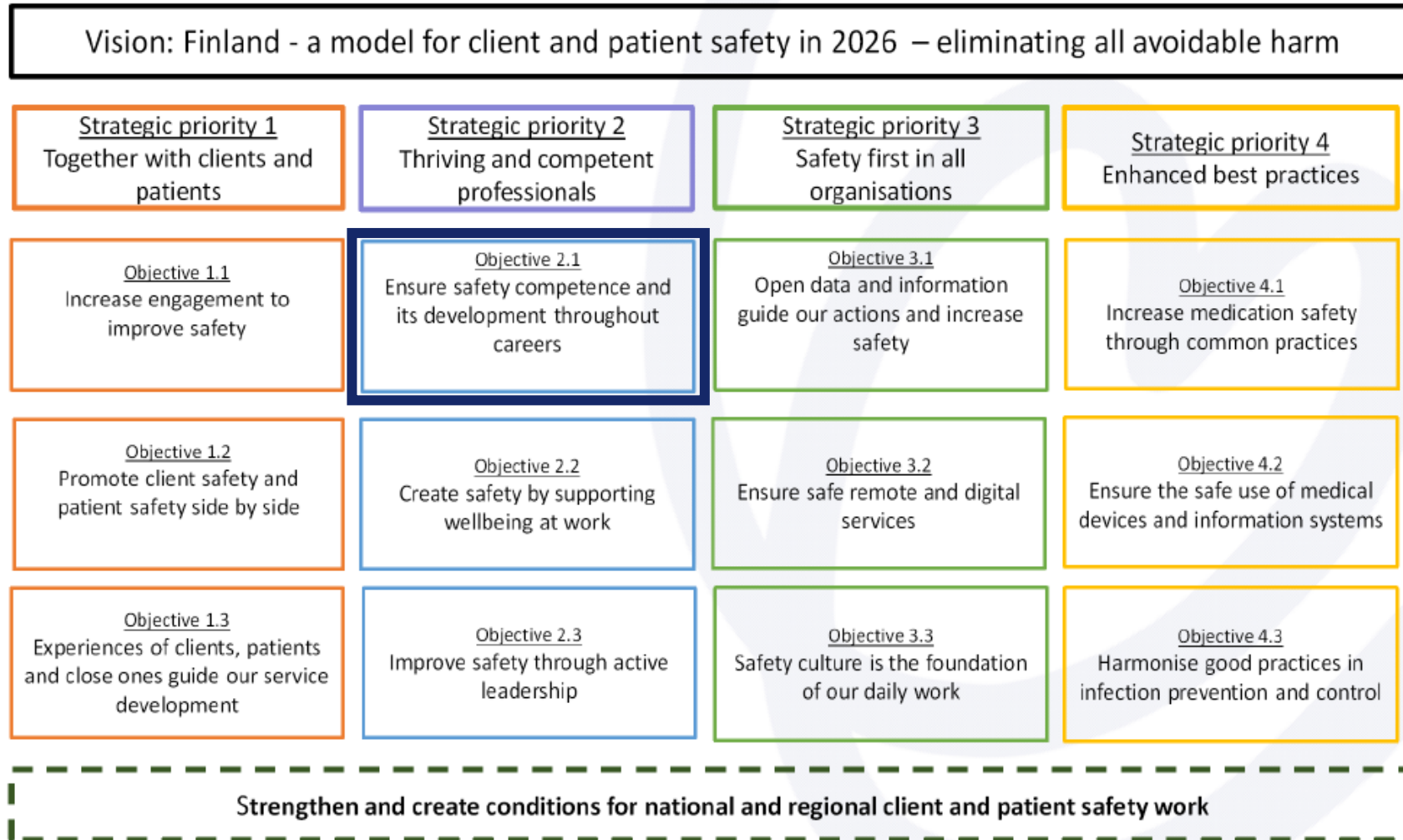
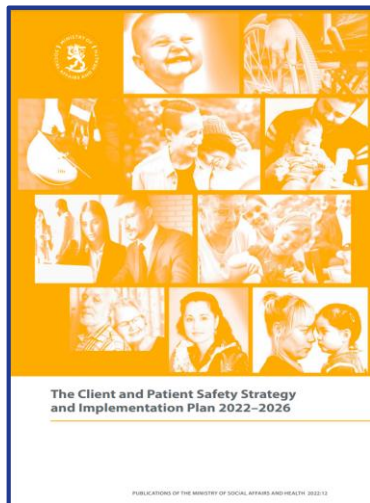
Barriers to implementing the WHO curriculum include:

- **Insufficient training** to enable faculty to implement the patient safety curriculum
- **Lack of governmental commitment** to the patient safety curriculum, eg. ongoing financial support
- **Lack of organisation-level commitment** to implementation of the patient safety curriculum
- **Poor fit between the patient safety curriculum and the broader political and economic context**
- **Lack of buy-in from stakeholders internal to the organisation**

Can we do
better
together?



National strategies and action plans can support implementation – an example from Finland



The first steps on our journey



Sosiaali- ja
terveysministeriö



Asiakas- ja potilasturvallisuuskeskus
Klient- och patientsäkerhetscentret



Embætti landlæknis



Helsedirektoratet



Socialstyrelsen

noharm@ovph.fi



Finnish Centre for
Client and Patient Safety