

Patient Safety

- Patient safety is preventing and minimizing risks, errors, and harm to patients during the delivery of healthcare services.



Principles of patient safety

- Focus on improving systems
- Continuous learning and training to enhance evidence based practices



Types of Errors

- Diagnostic Errors: Misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis
- Medication Errors: Wrong drug, dosage, or timing.
- Surgical Errors: Wrong-site surgery, or leaving tools inside the body.
- Falls and accidents within the hospital

Error Prevention and Management

- Errors in healthcare can occur in various forms, such as medication mistakes, surgical complications, diagnostic errors, so Patient safety aims to:
 - Identify the root causes of these errors.
 - Prevent them by implementing systems and protocols, such as checklists and standardized procedures.



Establishing Safe Practices

- Healthcare organizations follow various practices and strategies to improve patient safety, such as:
 - Checklists: Used in surgeries, medication administration, and patient transfers to ensure all steps are followed correctly.
 - Infection Prevention: sterilization, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Fall Prevention: Identifying high-risk patients and implementing interventions like bed alarms or non-slip footwear.

Role of healthcare providers in patient safety

- Follow standard protocols and guidelines
- Ensure effective communication among care teams
- Report errors
- Promote teamwork to provide complete care



Patient-Centered Care

- Patient safety isn't just about what healthcare providers do; it also involves the patient. Engaging patients in their care can improve safety outcomes by:
 - Educating Patients: Ensuring patients understand their treatment plans, medications, and procedures to reduce misunderstandings.
- Informed Consent: Clearly explaining the risks and benefits of treatments to patients so they can make educated choices.
- Ask questions when something is unclear

Technological Solutions

- The use of technology plays a significant role in enhancing patient safety:
 - Electronic Health Records (EHRs): Reducing errors related to hand-written documentation and facilitating better coordination among healthcare providers.
- Automated Alerts: Systems that alert healthcare professionals .
- Telemedicine offers safe, effective care remotely



Improvement Initiatives

- Many organizations are dedicated to improving patient safety globally:
 - WHO Patient Safety Programs: The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed several initiatives, such as the 'Global Patient Safety Challenge' and 'Surgical Safety Checklist,' aimed at reducing harm in healthcare settings.
 - National Quality Standards: Many countries have national organizations that set safety standards, such as The Joint Commission (USA) .
 - World patient safety day: September 17