

## Medication Without Harm



WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge

## The size of the problem of medication errors Main victims: patients and healthcare professionals

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Patient Safety Flagship

WHO headquarters

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## Huge burden of medication-related harm

- Unsafe medication practices and medication errors are a leading cause of avoidable harm in health care systems across the world
- Medication-related harm represents **50% of all preventable harm in medical care** with **prescribing** and **monitoring** errors contributing to the highest sources
- Medications implicated are those that affect **central nervous system** and **cardiovascular system**
- Elderly are most affected due to increasing **multi-morbidities** and resulting **polypharmacy** (1)
- Globally, the cost associated with medication errors has been estimated at US\$ 42 billion annually, not counting lost wages and productivity or resulting health care costs (2)

# WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge

*Medication Without Harm*

Global Launch, 29 March 2017

Medication Without Harm

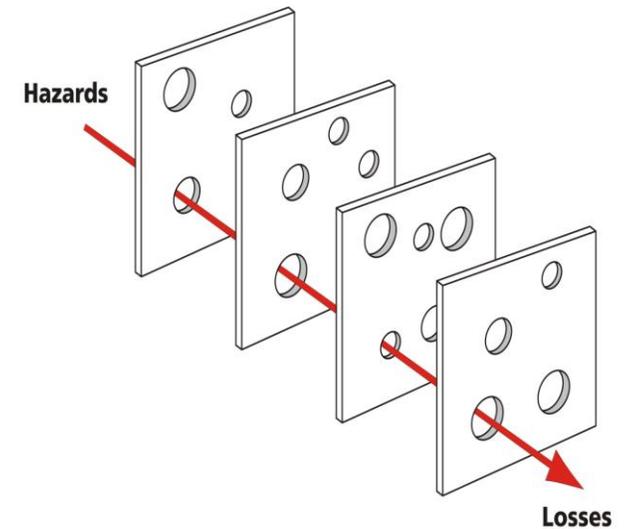


The Third Global Patient Safety Challenge

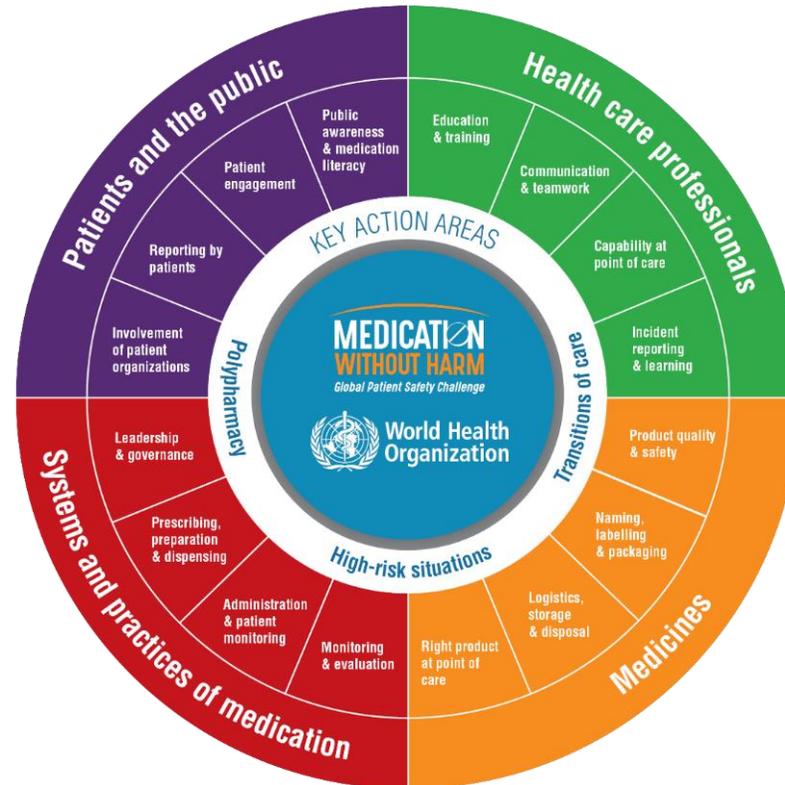
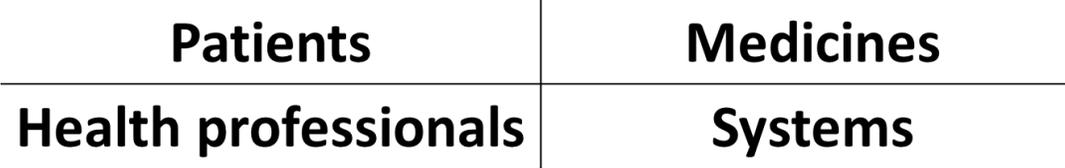


## Scope of the Problem

- Medication errors can occur at any stage of the medication use process, namely during **prescription, transcription, preparation, dispensing, administration and/or monitoring**
- Only ~25% of errors were detected before they advanced to the subsequent stage
- Stopgaps at each stage in the process, error that reaches the patient is not due to the inappropriate actions of one person, but rather a **combination of factors that result in a system failure**
- As a result, **systematic changes and process improvement** as a whole should be the focus of the Challenge



# Shaping the *Challenge*: the Strategic Framework





# Early Priority Action – Technical reports

World Health Organization

**Medication Safety in High-risk situations**



**MEDICATION WITHOUT HARM**  
Global Patient Safety Challenge

Technical Report

World Health Organization

**Medication Safety in Transitions of Care**



**MEDICATION WITHOUT HARM**  
Global Patient Safety Challenge

Technical Report

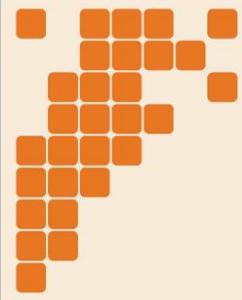
World Health Organization

**Medication Safety in Polypharmacy**



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Technical Report



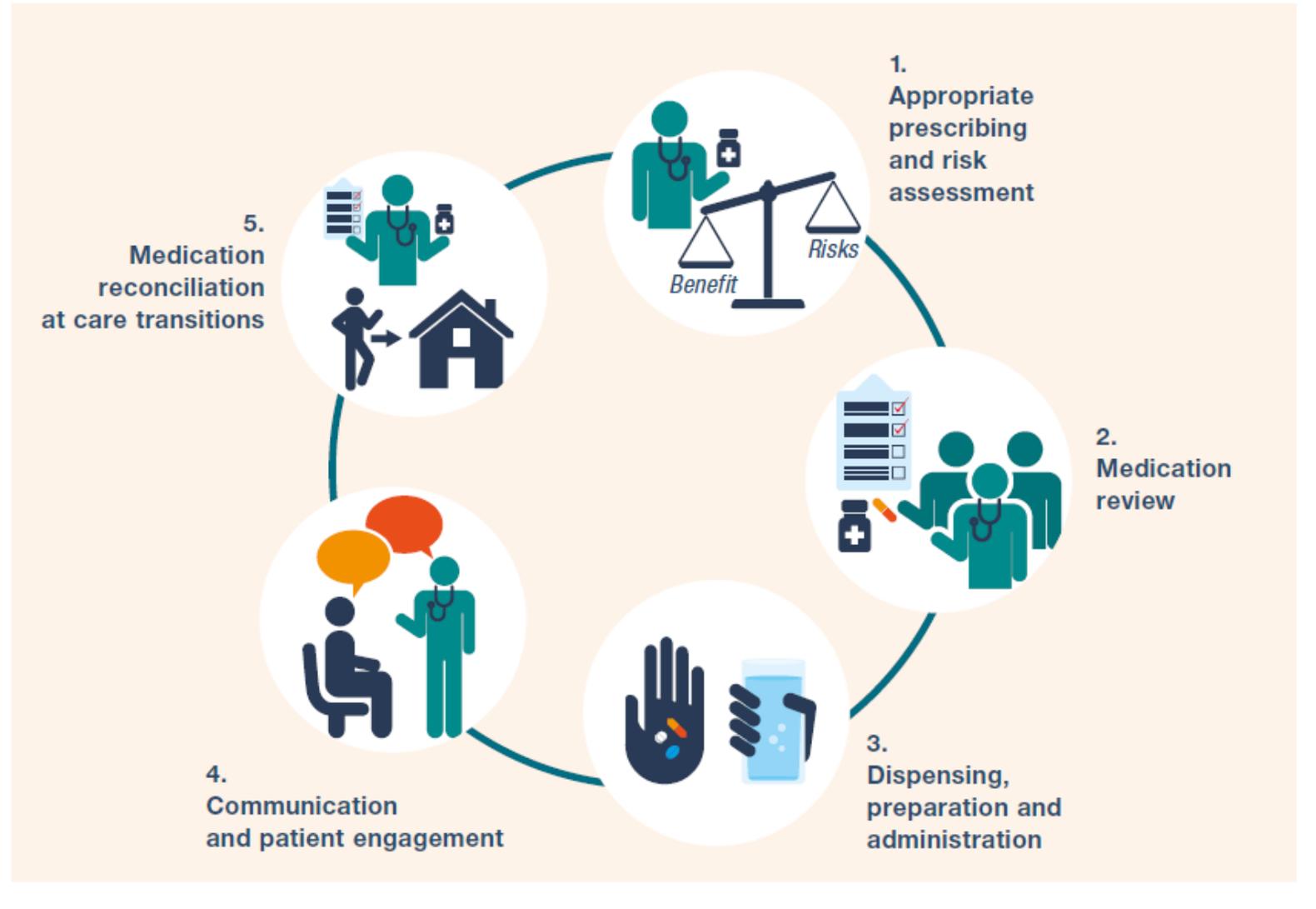
**Medication Errors**



Technical Series on Safer Primary Care

World Health Organization

Figure 1. Key steps for ensuring medication safety





**World Patient Safety Day 2022**  
**Medication Safety**



**Medication Without Harm**



WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge

**MEDICATION  
WITHOUT HARM**  
*Global Patient Safety Challenge*



Consolidation of the work of the  
**WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge:**  
*Medication Without Harm*



# Interaction between health workers and patients

**BEFORE YOU GIVE IT...**

**KNOW**  
your medication

**CHECK**  
you have the right

- patient
- medicine
- route
- dose
- time

**ASK**  
your patient  
if they understand



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**BEFORE YOU TAKE IT...**

**KNOW**  
your medication

**CHECK**  
the dose and time

**ASK**  
your health care professional



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# Patient Engagement Tool

**5 Moments for Medication Safety**

**Starting a medication**

- ▶ What is the name of this medication and what is it for?
- ▶ What are the risks and possible side-effects?
- ▶ Is there another way of treating my condition?
- ▶ Have I told my health professional about my allergies and other health conditions?
- ▶ How should I store this medication?

**Taking my medication**

- ▶ When should I take this medication and how much should I take each time?
- ▶ How should I take the medication?
- ▶ Is there anything related to food and drink that I should know while taking this medication?
- ▶ What should I do if I miss a dose of this medication?
- ▶ What should I do if I have side-effects?

**Adding a medication**

- ▶ Do I really need any other medication?
- ▶ Have I told my health professional about the medications I am already taking?
- ▶ Can this medication interact with my other medications?
- ▶ What should I do if I suspect an interaction?
- ▶ Will I be able to manage multiple medications correctly?

**Reviewing my medications**

- ▶ Do I keep a list of all my medications?
- ▶ How long should I take each medication?
- ▶ Am I taking any medications I no longer need?
- ▶ Does a health professional check my medications regularly?
- ▶ How often should my medications be reviewed?

**Stopping my medication**

- ▶ When should I stop each medication?
- ▶ Should any of my medications not be stopped suddenly?
- ▶ What should I do if I run out of medication?
- ▶ If I have to stop my medication due to an unwanted effect, where should I report this?
- ▶ What should I do with leftover or expired medications?

**5 Moments for Medication Safety**

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**Adding a medication**

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**5 Moments for Medication Safety**

**5 Moments for Medication Safety**

**Introducing Mobile Application on 5 Moments for Medication Safety**

**WHO medsafe app**

Will guide you through the 5 key moments where your action can reduce the risk of medication related harm.

Ask your health care professional important questions, keep the answers in a structured way to better manage your medications. Stay Healthy!

Available on the App Store and Google Play.

- **Mobile app**
- **Infographic poster**
- **Pamphlet**
- **Booklet**
- **Flyer**

**Join us in achieving...**

**Medication Without Harm**



**MEDICATION**  
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**Thank you!**

