



# PATIENT SAFETY



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*ESCAPE. Preparing healthcare professionals for cyberattacks  
Project No.2023-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000151536*

# Partners



**Firla**

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# FACTSHEET – PATIENT SAFETY

## 1. Definition

The paramount concern in healthcare, referring to the avoidance of preventable harm to patients and the maintenance of their well-being. Cyber incidents can directly compromise patient safety by delaying or disrupting medical procedures and treatment<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. General importance

Patient safety directly impacts human life and well-being and is a public health priority and the ultimate objective of cybersecurity measures in healthcare. Errors in healthcare can have catastrophic consequences, such as an increase in morbidity, mortality, and significant financial costs.

According to the World Health Organisation, unsafe care is one of the top ten leading causes of death and disability globally, making patient safety a critical requirement for trust in healthcare<sup>2</sup>.

## 3. Importance in health and care, and impact in quality of care

Patient safety, as we explained in the previous point, is central to maintaining trust between patients and professionals, as well as ensuring effective treatment outcomes.

Unsafe practices can result in long-term harm, delayed recovery, disability, or death. Patient harm in healthcare is pervasive and problematic and can occur in all settings and at all levels of healthcare provision<sup>3</sup>.

Some factors that lead to patient harm are:

1. System organisational factors: the complexity of medical interventions, poor processes and procedures, interruptions in workflow and care coordination, and so on.
2. Technological factors: issues with electronic health records or systems for giving out medicine.
3. Human factors: not being able to communicate, not working well together, fatigue, burnout...
4. Patient-related factors: limited health history, lack of engagement and non-adherence to treatment.
5. External factors: inconsistent regulations, financial pressures, and so on.

## 4. What can I do as a healthcare professional?

- Follow safety protocols that include cyber hygiene, double-checking medication, and following clinical guidelines.
- Report errors to prevent them from happening in the future and promote a culture of transparency.
- Take part in safe practices training.



## 5. More information

### 5.1 Learning Materials

- [Sequential videos for general topics about cybersecurity \(JGT-2\)](#).
- [Cybersecurity guide for healthcare sector \(EU scope\) \(JGT-7\)](#).
- [An article on security strategies applicable to electronic patient records \(IST-37\)](#).
- [An infographic on security and cybersecurity devices used in different healthcare settings. \(IST-38\)](#).
- [An overview of cybersecurity in healthcare, focusing on the role of AI and its regulatory framework. \(IST-39\)](#).
- [Cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers \(BBS-24\)](#).
- [Cybersecurity in Hospitals - Legal Accountability when Patients are harmed \(BBS-26\)](#).
- [Cyber-attacks are a permanent and substantial threat to health systems: Education must reflect that \(PRAMMER-32\)](#).
- [Systematically Applying Gamification to Cyber Security Awareness Trainings: A framework and case study approach \(PRAMMER-35\)](#).

### 5.2 Relevant Videos

According to the video, patient safety involves avoiding mistakes and injuries to patients while providing healthcare, stressing the value of a safety culture, clear communication, and ongoing development to guarantee top-notch treatment.

#### What is Patient Safety?

[https://youtu.be/6Bbsqg2UMEE?si=qy5P8J5jNHWjn\\_0l](https://youtu.be/6Bbsqg2UMEE?si=qy5P8J5jNHWjn_0l)

This video shows how listening to the voices of patients, their families, and carers can lead to safer healthcare for all. Visit the campaign website for more information and ways to engage

#### World Patient Safety Day 2023: Engaging Patients for Patient Safety

<https://youtu.be/8P9ABYMsTuE?si=4m5VAAKBqQXRZHYP>

The video stresses that patient safety and quality improvement are essential to healthcare. Its goal is to stop harm, improve care processes, and make sure better patient outcomes through ongoing learning and system improvements.

#### Patient Safety & Quality Improvement

[https://youtu.be/oU5m5rQIHC4?si=ScTu0XWi\\_3uUVb70](https://youtu.be/oU5m5rQIHC4?si=ScTu0XWi_3uUVb70)



### 5. 3 Relevant Links

A woman died of sepsis four days after childbirth due to delayed antibiotic treatment. The event brought attention to the need for better sepsis protocols and faster response systems.

<https://trilliumhealthpartners.ca/>

Systemic failures and wrongdoing put patients at risk, which led to unnecessary surgeries and taking advantage of waiting lists. This case demonstrated the importance of transparent processes and organizational culture for safe care.

<https://www.childrenshealthireland.ie/your-hospital-visit/our-locations/chi-at-crumlin/>

### 6. Bibliography

New European Commission Action Plan on the Cybersecurity of the European Healthcare System is Much Needed - Trellix, fecha de acceso: agosto 13, 2025,

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