Islamabad Declaration on Patient Safety
1st International Conference on Patient Safety (ICPS) 2016
---Patient Safety-Right or Privilege---
8th May 2016
Islamabad

The 1st International Conference on Patient Safety 7-8 May 2016, is organized by Riphah International University, Islamabad, on the theme “Patient Safety-Right or a Privilege”. The main objective of the conference is to create awareness on the subject and create a platform for the stakeholders and to come up with standards of quality & patient safety in healthcare at national level.

Needless to say quality healthcare is a key human right of patients, every effort should be made to ensure their safety as users of health services. WHO findings tell us that one out of every 10 patients is harmed by the healthcare system.

The conference focuses on the actions to be taken by different stakeholders, and makes following recommendations:

1- “Patient Safety” should be given high priority in national health agenda of Pakistan.
2- Patients’ Advocacy Group (PAG)” at national and provincial levels be established to understand patients’ concerns who are the most important stakeholders in the healthcare ecosystem.
3- A national professional association of Healthcare Quality & Safety be established to spearhead the movement of quality and patient safety by bringing on board all relevant stakeholders in Pakistan and represent the country in international forums.
4- Healthcare institutions should work in alliance with WHO and other relevant bodies to develop common understanding on patient safety issues and mechanisms to direct recommendations to relevant quarters.
5- A dedicated high level position or working group be created in Federal & Provincial ministries of health to oversee the matter.
6- Steps be taken to develop national standards for safety and use of medical technology.
7- Provide patients with full and free access to their personal health information while ensuring data accuracy so that patients fully understand and participate in their treatment process.

8- Include quality and patient safety in all levels of educational schemes and training of health professionals combined with integrated methods and procedures.

9- Hospitals to work in synergy through collaboration and partnership models of sharing knowledge, expertise & experience and also develop common standards in quality and safety.

10- Article 38-d of the Constitution inter-alia highlighted the health medical relief. A national framework for patient safety be developed.

11- A comprehensive National Health Policy, including quality and safety as a major priority area, needs to be developed in consultation with all provinces. It may include “Norm of Care” (patient safety) as an integral part in addition to policy on 1) Health information and research Disease security, Monitoring health indicators and health systems performance assessment, Evidence for policy and Heath research, 2) Health regulations, 3) International commitments, 4) constitutional provision, 5) Overarching norms, 6) Inter sectorial coordination, 7) Trade in health, 8) Health technology, 9) Disaster response, 10) National policy coordination to establish standards for inter-provincial conformity and 11) Pricing Structure etc.

12- Develop a collaborative care approach between health professionals and healthcare providers for embedding a patient safety culture.

13- Hospitals should have dedicated & trained professionals responsible for quality & patient safety. Hospitals should also have systems in place to document medical errors through an adverse event reporting mechanism.

14- A special subject “Quality & Patient Safety” should be included in the medical, nursing, pharmacy and other health programs at the undergraduate & postgraduate level.

15- Federal Government should enhance spending in the health sector to at least 3% of the GDP.