

The European Board of Anaesthesiology wishes to give its full support to the WHO World Patient Safety Day on 17th September 2025.



“Safe care for every newborn and every child”

World Patient Safety Day is an opportunity to raise public awareness and foster collaboration between patients, health workers, policymakers and health care leaders to improve patient safety. This year’s World Patient Safety Day (WPSD 25) on 17 September 2025 is focused on the theme **“Safe care for every newborn and every child”**.

Under the slogan **“Patient safety from the start!”**, WHO is calling for urgent action to eliminate avoidable harm in paediatric and newborn care. Addressing this challenge requires comprehensive efforts across key patient safety areas, such as safe childbirth and postnatal care, medication safety, diagnostic safety, immunisation safety, infection prevention and early recognition of clinical deterioration. World Patient Safety Day 2025 aims to drive meaningful improvements and reaffirm every child's right to safe and quality care.

Safe childbirth and postnatal care

This is the starting point and here anaesthesiologists play a key role in the teams delivering this. The European Board of Anaesthesiology played a leading role in the instigation and development of European minimum standards for obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia departments to improve patient safety for mothers and babies. (Ref 1)

Anaesthesiologists are similarly closely involved in providing safe paediatric and newborn care and reducing the potential causes of harm in this challenging area of medicine.

The Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology 2.0

Patient Safety is a prime concern of the European Board of Anaesthesiology and on 25th May 2025 the first update of The Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology was launched at Euroanaesthesia in Lisbon. This fully endorses the World Health Organization-World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WHO-WFSA) International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia, the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 and the WHO Patient Safety Rights Charter.

The Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology 2.0 Safety can be read in full and at <https://helsinkipatientsafety.org/> and the European Board of Anaesthesiology encourages others involved to join them and sign up to it using the QR code below. (Ref 2)

Improving Patient Safety for every newborn and every child a key issue for the users and funders of healthcare systems and Governments worldwide. A large proportion of Health Budgets are spent on managing Adverse Events associated with maternity and newborn care and so apart from protecting countless patients' lives and health, billions of euros could be saved each year as well.

Dr David Whitaker

Chair of the EBA Patient Safety Committee

Olegs Sabelnikovs

President EBA

References

1. Guasch, Emilia; Brogly, Nicolas; Mercier, Frederic J.; Ioscovich, Alexander; Weiniger, Carolyn F.; Lucas, Nuala; Chassard, Dominique; Kranke, Peter; Whitaker, David; Geldner, Goetz; Sabelnikovs, Olegs; de Robertis, Edoardo. **European minimum standards for obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia departments: An experts' consensus.** European Journal of

Anaesthesiology 37(12):p 1115-1125, December 2020. | DOI:
10.1097/EJA.0000000000001362

2. European Board of Anaesthesiology. Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology 2.0. 2025 <https://helsinkipatientsafety.org/>



The Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology 2.0

[Read the Declaration](#) [Sign the Declaration →](#)

The Declaration is also available to [download as a PDF](#)

