



# European Union and Patient Safety

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## A major issue in the EU

*Patient safety and hospital acquired infection are susceptible to prevention strategies*

*The burden of mortality and morbidity is significant*

*Patient safety and hospital acquired infections are a factor in health systems sustainability*

*Sharing good practice across borders in the EU makes sense and can introduce higher standards and innovation*

## Areas of EU action to date

- Classifying and measuring patient safety *e.g.*
  - ✓ Co-financing of the Health Care Quality Indicators Project led by OECD
  - ✓ Survey of healthcare associated infections (ECDC)
- Develop and promote research *e.g.*
  - ✓ Projects under the Health Programme and Research programme
- ✓ Supporting work by Member States and Stakeholders
  - ✓ Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and healthcare associated infection
  - ✓ Better surveillance
  - ✓ Sharing best practice across borders

# Patient Safety and Quality of Care Background

- 8 - 12% of patients admitted to EU hospitals suffer from adverse events (*e.g.* healthcare-associated infections, medication errors, surgical errors, medical devices failures, errors in diagnosis)
- Much of the harm to patients is preventable but implementation of strategies to reduce harm varies widely across the EU
- The costs to health systems are considerable

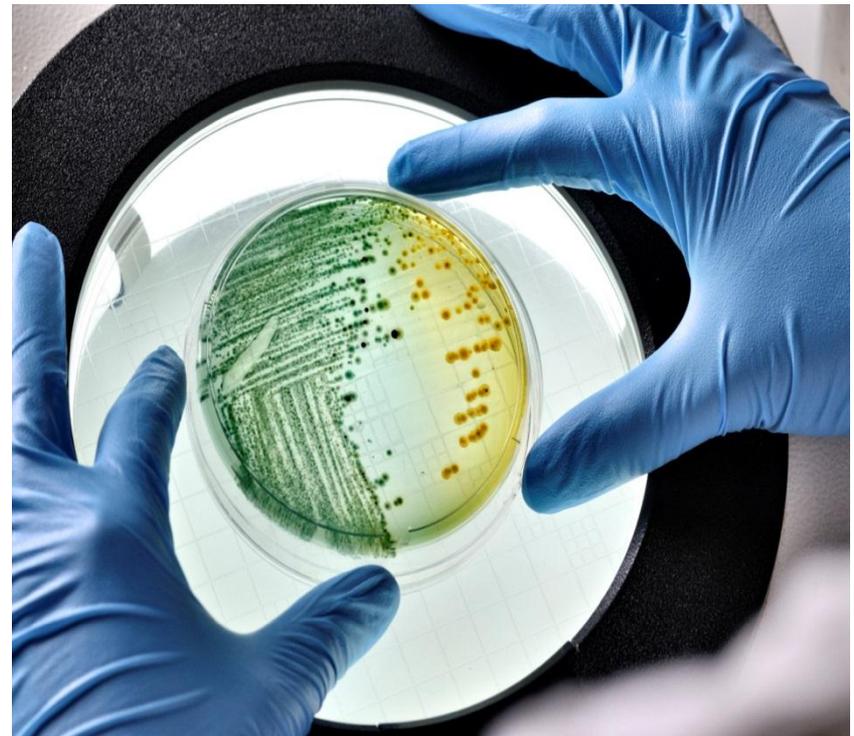
# Healthcare-associated infection

- *Major patient safety issue*
- *4 million+ cases in the EU per year*
- *Most antibiotic resistant infections are healthcare associated*
- *Important to improve cross border comparisons and exchange of best practice*



# Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection

- *EU MSs + Norway, Serbia and Moldova, WHO, OECD, ECDC*
- *EUR 6.5 million 2017-2020*
- *Coordination - France*



# EU Health Policy Platform on Patient Safety

Health interest groups jointly draft statements on public health topics, setting out their expectations and proposals. Statements will provide advice to the European Commission on its activities.



## Patient Safety

Welcome to the Temporary Thematic Network on Patient Safety led by the Standing Committee of European Doctors - CPME.

The main objective of the network is to gather evidence and draft a joint statement on the continuation of EU Patient Safety Policy and the added value and role of the Patient Safety and Quality of Care Expert Group. One basis for our work will be the existing work of the Patient Safety and Quality of Care Expert Group, the PaSQ Network and the Council Conclusions on Patient Safety of 1 December 2014.

Your input is valuable and we welcome comments and cooperation. [read less](#) ▶

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## ➤ Joint Statement on Patient Safety, led by CPME.

- 3 contributions so far (from EFN, ENRF and HOPE)

➤ To be presented and endorsed at Platform meeting, 5 December 2016

## Important to get wider involvement

*There is limited involvement by stakeholders*  
*Hospital managers have been largely absent from the discussion so far*  
*Health professionals are involved, but only partially*  
*Patient groups are not fully mobilised*  
*Lots of scope for involvement in Health Policy Platform*

# More evidence from the EU on the cost-effectiveness of patient safety programmes

3.7.2009 EN Official Journal of the European Union C 151/1

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I  
*(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)*

RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION  
of 9 June 2009  
on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections  
(2009/C 151/01)



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.11.2012  
COM(2012) 658 final

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL**  
**on the basis of Member States' reports on the implementation of the Council Recommendation (2009/C 151/01) on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections**

(Text with EEA relevance)  
{SWD(2012) 366 final}

# OECD Health Care Quality Indicators Project

- Focus on 'action-ability' of patient safety indicators in EU Member States and OECD countries
  - ✓ Further methodological development of existing indicators to improve their utility and amenability
  - ✓ Consensus building for adoption of additional indicators to broaden scope and/or perspectives on patient safety
  - ✓ Identifying current use of patient safety indicators in EU & OECD
  - ✓ To better understand key challenges for indicator implementation

## Health information

- *Major health report, planned for November 2017, with OECD and Health Observatory*
- *Next year - 28 country profiles*
- *Good occasion to identify gaps in patient safety*

## Conclusions

- *Treaty responsibility is for Member States to organize and deliver health services*
- *Commission mandate is to coordinate public health actions by Member States*
- *Patient safety has been a good example where EU level activity has brought value added to national actions*
- *Important that Member States and stakeholders now define future needs.*