



Joint Statement from Saudi Patient Safety Center & International Council of Nurses on the occasion of the first World Patient Safety Day on 17th September 2019

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the landmark paper “To Err Is Human”. The past two decades have seen huge progress in the field of Patient Safety which culminated with the establishment of the Global Ministerial Summit series on Patient Safety which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had the honor to host in March, 2019 in the city of Jeddah.

During this high-level profile event, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) presented and made an intervention highlighting the critical relationship between Nurses and Patient Safety. One of the major outcomes of the 4th Global Ministerial Patient Safety Summit was the launch of the [Jeddah Declaration on Patient Safety](#) which highlighted the linkage between Health Workforce Safety and Patient Safety.

To further highlight the interdependence between Workforce Safety & Patient Safety, the Jeddah Summit saw the release of the [White paper Nurse Staffing Levels for Patient Safety and Workforce Safety](#), which is a joint effort between the Saudi Patient Safety Center (SPSC) and ICN. This seminal white paper, informed by the [Position Statement on Evidence-based safe nurse staffing](#), focused on showing the relationship between nurse staffing and patient safety and how both safeties are aligned (i.e. two sides of the same coin).

This is a historic moment for both Nursing and Patient Safety. With the inauguration of the World Health Assembly (WHA) Global Action on Patient Safety Resolution on this past May, the year 2019 is, in many ways, viewed as a remarkable turning point for Patient Safety and on the other hand, the World Health Organization (WHO) is marking 2020 to be the year for Nursing and Midwifery.

On this very special occasion of celebrating the 1st World Patient Safety Day (September 17), we, at SPSC and ICN, reinforce our commitment to continue working collaboratively and with partners to promote and highlight the impact of Nurses and Nursing in ensuring the safety of patients.

Globally, each nurse, at every level, has an active role in ensuring the safety of patients and therefore, the two entities, SPSC and ICN, produced a video to mark this very first World Patient Safety Day, highlighting how more than 20 million nurses around the world have a vital role in ensuring safety of patients, families and communities.