

Patient safety is the top priority for all healthcare institutions: World Patient Safety Day

Mahesh Kumar,¹ *Yogesh Kumar Pandey²

¹Associate Professor, Dept. of Shalya Tantra, Professor, ²Dept. of Kayachikitsa Ch. Brahm Prakash Ayurved Charak Sansthan (CBPACS), Khera Dabar, New Delhi, India-110073.

ABSTRACT:

Patient safety stands as the utmost priority for every healthcare institution irrespective of the any discipline or treatment system. World Patient Safety Day serves as a vital reminder of this responsibility, emphasizing the collective duty of all healthcare professionals to ensure a safe and harm-free environment for patients. It underscores the importance of protecting patients from risks such as disease-related complications, hospital-acquired infections, clinical negligence, iatrogenic (treatment-induced) harm, and workplace hazards. Ensuring patient safety also includes fostering a calm, respectful, and healing environment- key to both recovery and trust in the healthcare system. All patients expects safety at hospital and the safety should be followed at each centre irrespective of Ayurveda or allopathic at primary to tertiary care level. The safety measures includes adherence with proper hand hygiene, prevention of infection, management of biomedical wastes, avoidance of medication error, risk management, quality improvement etc. The global observation of world patient safety day is supposed to publicise the importance of patient safety and avoidance of threat at healthcare centre.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda, Patient safety, *Visuddhachikitsa*, World patient safety day, WPSD.

Received: 03.05.2026

Accepted: 31.05.2026

Published: 09.06.2026



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) © 2026 International Journal of AYUSH Case Reports | Published by Tanaya Publication, Jamnagar.

QR Code



*Corresponding Author:

Dr. Mahesh Kumar

Associate Professor,

Department of Shalya Tantra, CBPACS, New Delhi, India

Email: drmkguptabhu@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION:

World Patient Safety day (WPSD)

The well-known slogan “No Harm to Patients” mentioned at Global patient safety action plan 2021-2030, represents the foundational principle of patient-centred care. [1] Ayurveda, the ancient medical science focuses on delivering safe and effective medical care without harm to the patients and therefore include this principle in the definition of *Visuddha Chikitsa* itself. The *Visuddhachikitsa* means the treatment that cure the disease but not causing complications [2]. The world patient safety day observed annually on September 17th, World Patient Safety Day aims to raise public awareness and promote understanding of the importance of patient safety within healthcare settings. [3] The day serves as a call to action, encouraging governments, healthcare organizations, professional bodies, and civil society to adopt and implement long-term strategies for safer care. The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2025 was "Safe care for every newborn and every child," with the slogan "Patient safety from the start!" This theme highlights the critical need to ensure safe and effective healthcare for infants and children, who represent the most vulnerable population [4]. World Patient Safety Day not only raises awareness but also urges every healthcare facility to adopt proactive measures that place patient well-being at the heart of all care practices. The World Patient Safety Day is actually a call to prioritize safety in all healthcare systems.

Each year, nearly 1 in 10 patients suffers harm during medical care, resulting in over 3 million avoidable deaths globally. The impact is especially severe in low- and middle-income countries, where up to 4 in 100 people may die due to unsafe healthcare practices. Encouragingly, more than 50% of these incidents—affecting around 1 in every 20 patients—are preventable, with almost half linked to medication-related errors [5]. This highlights the urgent need for healthcare organizations to prioritize patient safety a core message of World Patient Safety Day. Preventable harm not only affects individual lives but also imposes a heavy burden on national and global economies. To ensure safer care, healthcare workers must remain vigilant in avoiding medication errors, unnecessary or unsafe surgical procedures, misdiagnoses, patient falls, wrong patient identification, wrong-site surgeries, work place hazards, and negligence. Equally important are maintaining proper nutrition, water quality, and sanitation and hygiene standards within care facilities.

Ayurveda perspective towards patient safety

Ayurveda follows the practice-based evidence approach, where evidence is generated on the basis of practice already in vogue [6]. As per Ayurveda classics the *Vaidya* (physician), the *Aatura* (patient), the *Paricharak* (nursing, care giver) and the *Aushdha* (medicines) are the main four pillar of *Chikitsa* (*Chikitsa Chastuspada*). A safe and effective treatment can be assured only if all of these are endowed

desired qualities. The physician is viewed as *Vijnata* (one who is well versed in science), *Shashita* (leader) and *Yokta* (manager) and therefore entrusted with effective delivery of healthcare service^[7]. So only the patients have been advised to trust *Pranabhisara Vaidyas* (life savior clinician) only and keep an arm's length from *Rogabhisar Vaidyas* (Votaries of diseases). Ayurveda literature describe the characteristics of both types of physicians at best which can serve as a benchmark of patients' education to identify the worthy physicians to ensure their safety. Similarly, the human attributes of the healthcare giver has been summarily described which is worthwhile to be adopted by the modern medical system while selecting nurses.

Further, Ayurveda literature puts a lot of emphasis on qualities of medicine and methods of their administration. Almost every treatment procedure has been described in three phases as *Poorvakarma*- Physical & mental preparation, *Pradhana Karma* - administration of treatment and *Paschaat karma* - post treatment assessment and managing complications if any. A lot of emphasis has been laid down on *shuchita* (physical and psychological purity), *dakshata* (adeptness), *Paryavadaashrutata* (literary knowledge), *drishta Karmata* (hands on training) of health care providers to ensure safety of the patients. It is also worthwhile to mention that the physicians are advised to plan treatment only after proper examination of patients and medicine suited for him.

Ayurveda advocate *Ubhayagyachikitsak* (have knowledge of literature and practical skill), *Rajvaidya* (royal physician), *Bahushruta*, *Krityogya* (qualified physician) and *Sada-vrutta* (good code of conduct) with regard to patient care and safety.

The person caring the patient and running the healthcare facility must ensure to provide service of excellence care and no harm to patient. The hospital hygiene should be good, waste management properly, work place managed well, no contamination, proper documentation, follow the standard operating procedure, serve the mankind, patient friendly, well information system and consenting etc.

Acharya Sushruta emphasized the highest standard of patient care means ethical care. The patient offers himself completely to the *Vaidya* (clinician) care with trust, without fear, suspicion, or hesitation. The doctor's duty toward a faithful patient is to follow the principle "*Tasmaat putravadeyvainam paalyedaaturam bhishak (Sushruta)*" which means that a *Bhishak* (doctor) should care the patient like their own son^[8].

The key message in patient safety at health care facility is to make cleanliness at hospital, follow hand hygiene, avoid medication error, follow the protocol and workflow, manage workplace (5S), manage biomedical waste, prevent infections, avoid water logging, avoid vector borne diseases, extra care of vulnerable patient, proper information-education-communication (IEC) display, care & monitoring of infrastructure and buildings, adhere

with standard of care and duty of care etc. always

Authors Contribution: Both author contributed equally in writing the manuscript.

Acknowledgement: Regards to all sources providing the information, all stalwarts contributing towards patient safety, and digital tools help in editing and proofing.

Conflict of interest: The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

Guarantor: The corresponding author is the guarantor of this article and its contents.

Source of support: None

How to cite this article:

Mahesh Kumar, Yogesh Kumar Pandey. Patient safety is the top priority for all healthcare institutions: World Patient Safety Day. Int. J. AYUSH Case Reports. 2026; 10(2-A): 1-8.

REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/patient-safety> last assess on 30-08-2025 6.49 am.
2. Tripathi Brahmanand, Charak Chandrika hindi commentary on Charak Samhita (Nidana sthaan chapter 8/23), Chaukhambha Surbharti Prakashan Varanasi, reprint edition 2003, page 651.
3. <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-patient-safety-day> last assess on 30-08-2025 7.00am.
4. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2025/09/17/default-calendar/world-patient-safety-day--17-september-2025--patient-safety-from-the-start#:~:> last assess on 21-03-2026 10.55 am.
5. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/patient-safety> last assess on 21-03-2026, 11am.
6. Patwardhan B. Bridging Ayurveda with evidence-based scientific approaches in medicine. EPMA J. 2014 Nov 1;5(1):19.
7. TripathiBrahmanand, CharakChandrika, hindi commentary on CharakSamhita (Sutra sthana 9/10), ChaukhambhaSurbhartiPrakashan Varanasi, reprint edition 2003 page 211.
8. Shastri Ambikadutta, Ayurveda-Tattva-Sandipika, hindi commentary on Sushruta Samhita (Sutra sthana chapter 25/43-44), Chaukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan Varanasi, reprint edition 2005, page 107.