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भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशालय
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services

No. T-20014/45/2024-SAS-1
Dated : 25ᵗʰ April 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Patient safety is a fundamental pillar of quality healthcare and is central to achieving better patient outcomes, patient satisfaction, and trust in the health system. The Government of India has undertaken several initiatives at both central and state levels to address patient safety concerns, particularly within the broader framework of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

However, several emerging challenges that compromise patient safety require urgent attention. Recently, there have been concerns raised by the medical fraternity and patients regarding:

- Over-treatment / Over prescription or unnecessary drug prescriptions,
- Unnecessary/Avoidable surgical interventions,
- Misuse and overuse of antibiotics,
- Unnecessary Diagnostic (lab/imaging) investigations,
- Unwanted Caesarean sections.

Such practices not only jeopardize patient safety but also contribute significantly to rising healthcare costs and increased out-of-pocket expenditure for patients thereby defeating the very concept of affordable accessible healthcare.

In view of the above, to affirm their accountability for the same, an integrity commitment in form of a pledge (attached) may be administered to all medical professionals of your association. Also, the pledge form may be uploaded on the association website.

This pledge will reinforce the collective commitment of India's healthcare community towards "Safer Practices, Safer Care, and Zero Harm." Together, as an association let us advocate towards building a healthcare system that is safer, more compassionate and affordable for every citizen.

With Warm Regards,

(Atul Goel)

Encl: As above

To,

All Healthcare Associations - India (As per list attached)

List of Associations

1. Indian Medical Association (IMA)
2. Association of Physicians (API)
3. The Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI)
4. Indian Dental Association (IDA)
5. Indian Orthopedic Association (IOA)
6. Association of Surgeons of India (ASI)
7. Indian Society of Oncology (ISO)
8. The Association of Otolaryngologists of India(AOI)
9. Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India (AOMSI)
10. Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)
11. Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS)
12. Cardiology Society of Indian (CSI)
13. Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM)
14. Indian Public Health Association (IPHA)
15. National Medicos Organization (NMO)
16. MeDeVision : Medical and Dental Doctors and Students Association
17. All India Ophthalmology Society (AIOS)
18. Indian Association of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics (IACDE)
19. Indian Society of Periodontology (ISP)
20. Indian Association of Public Health Dentistry (IAPHD)
21. Indian Society of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry (ISPPD)
22. Indian Orthodontic Society (IOS)
23. Indian Society of Transplant Surgeons (ISOT)
24. Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists (IAMM)

Integrity Pledge for Patient Safety

I, _____ [Name], currently working as
_____(Designation)
in_____(Organization & Place) member of the
_____ (Name of the Association)

Pledge to promote patient safety in my health facility/Clinic/Hospital.

- I will reduce errors and continuously enhance my knowledge and skills.
- I will engage patients as active partners in their own care.
- I will advocate for open, transparent, and respectful communication.
- I will not promote over-prescription of drugs or over treatment
- I will not promote unnecessary/unwanted surgeries.
- I will follow and encourage rational use of antimicrobials and prevent misuse.
- I will work to reduce/advocate for reducing unnecessary Caesarean sections, both in my practice and among colleagues.
- I will strive to make healthcare affordable, accessible, and available for all.
- I will support cut down of out-of-pocket expenses for patients.
- I endeavour to make healthcare inexpensive (affordable) for patients and also continually work for/device innovative solutions/treatment protocols for quality affordable care.
- I will support the vision of Universal Health Coverage through ethical and safe care for a disease free India.
- I dedicate myself to creating a safer, fairer, and more compassionate healthcare system for all.

Together, we can make patient safety everyone's priority.