The single greatest impediment to error prevention is that we punish people for making mistakes.
—Dr. Lucian Leape, patient safety expert

With the culture of blame and punishment, staff still tend to cover up their mistakes as they are afraid of the possible consequences.
—MSF nurse

WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY
17.09.2021

DID YOU KNOW...  

10 out of 100 patients are harmed during healthcare. 
About 3 million people in low- and middle-income countries die each year due to unsafe care. 

Patient safety—or, preventing avoidable harm to patients—is a priority for MSF on World Patient Safety Day, and every day!

MSF healthcare workers ensure that patient care is safe in many ways: Nurses who wash their hands before patient contact, surgeons who use the Safe Surgery Checklist, and midwives who sterilize equipment between births are all doing these things to keep patients safe.

But all of us—no matter our job, where we are working, and if we work directly with patients or not—can support MSF’s patient safety efforts. We can do this by creating and maintaining a positive patient safety culture.

PATIENT SAFETY CULTURE

A positive patient safety culture is a working environment that prioritises learning and supports sustainable quality improvement.

It’s a culture in which we improve our care without blaming or shaming.

It’s an environment where mistakes and incidents are transformed into learning and improvement opportunities.

Healthcare organisations with positive patient safety culture have better staff perceptions of care quality, better staff retention, and higher use of patient safety processes.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A POSITIVE PATIENT SAFETY CULTURE

1 
Invite staff to share what positive patient safety culture means to them—post it in a common space (physical or virtual) and send a pic to your MedCo or Quality Advisor!

2 
Learn more about patient safety by enrolling in MSF’s free quality of care courses on Tembo.

3 
Then, with your colleagues, define what patient safety culture could look like in your workplace and what steps you can all take to contribute to it.