

WHO News

Malaysia

Proposed bill to regulate medical devices under way¹

Excerpt from the Pacific Bridge Medical (PBM), Asian Medical e-Newsletter (Volume 5, Number 8, November 2005)

A draft of Malaysia's Medical Device Bill has been completed and submitted to the Attorney General for review, according to a statement made by Malaysian Minister of Health Dr. Chua Soi Lek in September 2005. One of the requirements in the proposed legislation, which is expected to be implemented from 2007, is the registration of all health care equipment with the Ministry of Health. Dr. Chua stated that although enforcement of the Medical Device Bill will not begin until 2007, voluntary registration of health care equipment would begin by the end of this year. The proposed bill will apply for all medical devices within Malaysia.

Malaysia does not presently have a medical device regulatory authority and wants to implement a system that is in line with standards of other Asian countries. Under the proposed bill, a supervisory body would be established within the Ministry of Health to ensure the safety of all health care equipment. The main responsibilities of this supervisory body would be to oversee the registration, enforcement, and monitoring of all laser and health care equipment.

South Africa

The Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa (COHASA)²

Press Release: Developing a national infection control policy (November 2005)

COHSASA will be collaborating with the National Department of Health in South Africa, the University of the Witwatersrand and others to assist with the development of a national infection control policy that will determine performance standards to be achieved, investigate outbreaks, implement prevention and control measures and monitor and improve rates of infections in hospitals.

Said Professor Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA, "Infection control has been one of the more challenging services within the our programme. COHSASA was asked to report its findings in infection control to the National Department of Health.

COHSASA will be working closely with the National Department of Health and with Professor Adriano Duse, Chief Specialist and Academic Head: Division of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the NHLS & Wits School of Pathology, to determine whether there is a correlation between increased levels of standards compliance and rates of hospital-acquired (so-called nosocomial) infections in South African healthcare facilities.

¹Originally published as <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/news/pbm8/en/index.html> (downloaded 08/02/2006).

²Originally published as http://www.who.int/patientsafety/news/cohsasa_press_release.pdf (downloaded 08/02/2006).

The data will be collected from high-risk sites such as urinary tract, lower respiratory tract, blood-stream and surgical site infections.

The focus on infection control was brought centre stage when 22 babies died in the Mahatma Gandhi hospital in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of the country in June/July.

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Japan

Japanese Society for Quality and Safety in Health Care Symposium³

(January 9, 2006)

Sir Liam Donaldson, Chair of the World Alliance for Patient Safety was recently welcomed on a visit to Tokyo, Japan by the newly established Japanese Society for Safety and Quality in Health Care (JSQSH). Sir Liam gave a keynote presentation on “Patient Safety: the International Challenge” at a Symposium organized by the JSQSH. The Symposium was attended by around 150 clinical and health care leaders from Japan.

Meetings were undertaken with the Senior Vice Minister, Mr Masao Akamatsu from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry officials. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about the comprehensive patient safety programme underway in Japan.

Two very informative hospital visits were also arranged. Visits to the University of Tokyo Hospital and the Mushashino Red Cross Hospital provided the opportunity to see first hand work on patient safety in frontline clinical areas.

Introduction to Patients for patient safety

The World Alliance for Patient Safety represents a major opportunity to put the patient and the consumer at the centre of the international movement to improve patient safety. Patients for Patient Safety, one of six action areas of the World Alliance, is designed to ensure that the perspective of patients and families, consumers and citizens – whichever term resonates best – is a central reference point in shaping this important work. This action area will be led by the patient safety consumer movement.

Inaugural Patients for Patient Safety Workshop

The first Patients for Patient Safety Workshop was held in London in November 2005 and brought together a group of 21 patients and patient safety advocates, whose experience establishes them as committed patient safety champions. Participants were drawn from 19 different countries and were selected following a world wide call for expressions of interest.

Launch of the London Declaration

Patients for Patient Safety have launched the London Declaration after their inaugural workshop held at the end of last year. This Declaration brings together the global voice of patients and consumers,

³Originally published as <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/events/06/symposium/en/index.html> (downloaded 10/02/2006).

outlining their vision for the future of safe health care and the commitment and motivation for patients to be involved in the work of the World Alliance.

LONDON DECLARATION: Patients for Patient Safety⁴

WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety (January 17, 2006)

We, Patients for Patient Safety, pledge to help create a world in which health care errors harm fewer people. We, gathered in London from 27–30 November 2005 to join together in partnership in an effort to reduce the massive burden of avoidable harm in health care. Risk and uncertainty are constant companions. So we come together in dialogue, participating in care with providers. We unite our strength as advocates for care with less harm in the developing as well as the developed world.

We are committed to spreading the word from person to person, town to town, country to country. There is a right to safe health care and we will not let the current culture of error and denial continue. We call for honesty, openness and transparency. We will make the reduction of health-care errors a basic human right that protects human life around the world.

We, Patients for Patient Safety, will be the voice of all patients, but especially of those who are now unheard. Together, as partners, we will collaborate in:

- Devising and promoting programmes for patient safety and patient empowerment.
- Developing and driving a constructive dialogue with all partners concerned with patient safety.
- Establishing systems for reporting and dealing with health-care harm on a worldwide basis.
- Defining best practices that deal with health-care harm of all kinds and promote those practices throughout the world.

In honor of those who have died, those who have been left disabled and our loved ones today, we will strive for excellence, so that all people receiving health care are as safe as possible, as soon as possible. This is our pledge of partnership.

⁴Originally published as http://www.who.int/patientsafety/information_centre/Final_London_Declaration_Feb06.pdf (downloaded 10/02/2006).