

Country brief - on World Patient Safety Commemoration 2025, Sri Lanka

1. Background

Sri Lanka commemorated the World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) on the 17th of September 2025 focusing on this year's theme "Safe care for every newborn and child" and the slogan, "Patient safety from the start". The theme is quite relevant to Sri Lanka, considering its remarkable achievements in maternal and child health milestones and continuous commitment towards improvements, with special attention to the quality and safety of care.

The main official event was held under the patronage of Dr Nalinda Jayatissa, the Honourable Minister of Health & Mass Media, in Colombo with the participation of more than 170 delegates from different parts of the country representing healthcare institutions including higher officials from the Ministry of Health such as Dr Anil Jasinghe, Secretary Health & Mass Media, all the Ministry of Health participants, Rui Paulo Jesus, the World Health Organization (WHO) country representative and representatives from the patient organizations as well.

2. The agenda of the event is given below.

Invitation

Patient Safety and Accreditation Bureau
Ministry of Health
Cordially invites

to the National Event of

World Patient Safety Day 2025

on
17th September 2025 from 8.30 am
at the Jubilee Ballroom
Galle Face Hotel, Colombo

RSVP Dr Nirmali 011 2678598

Agenda

8.30 am - 9.00 am Registration and Refreshments

9.00 am - 9.15 am Invocation

9.15 am - 9.20 am Welcome Address by Deputy Director General (Medical Services) I Dr Lal Pathiyal

9.20 am - 9.25 am Video on this year's theme "Safe Care for Every Newborn and Every Child" by the WHO

9.25 am - 9.35 am Remarks to World Patient Safety 2025 by Dr Rajitha Jayasinha, Director Patient Safety & Accreditation Bureau

9.35 am - 9.40 am Address by the WHO Country Representative to Sri Lanka

9.40 am - 9.45 am Dr Lal Pathiyal the incoming Minister of Health and Mass Media

9.45 am - 09.55 am Keynote address by Prof. Unoda Ranjitha Professor in Paediatrics, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

9.55 am - 10.15 am Address by Secretary of Ministry of Health & Mass Media

10.15 am - 10.25 am Dr. Asith Jayasinghe

10.25 am - 10.45 am Awarding for Best Practices (Gold, Silver, Bronze)

10.45 am - 11.00 am Presentations of Best Practices (Gold Awards-line & provincial)

11.00 am - 11.10 am Serving a special tea and short programme

11.10 am - 12.00 pm Presentations of Best Practices (Silver & Bronze Award Line & Provincial)

12.00 pm - 1.30 pm "Safe Care for Every Newborn and Every Child" - Panel discussion
Moderated by the Director, Patient Safety and Accreditation Bureau & the DOKI Medical Services
• Representations from the Ministry of Health (Planning)
• Representation from College of Physicians
• Representation from the Dental Society of Sri Lanka
• Representation from the Sri Lanka College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians

1.30 pm - 1.40 pm Vote of Thanks by Consultant Community Physician, DOKI

1.40 pm onwards Lunch

World Patient Safety Day 17 September 2025

3. Introductory Remarks

The event commenced with the national anthem, followed by the symbolic lighting of the traditional oil lamp, marking an auspicious and dignified beginning.





While Dr Lal Panapitiya, Deputy Director General, Medical Services welcomed the participants, the introductory remarks of the World Patient Safety Day were delivered by Dr. Upali Wijemanne, Director of the Patient Safety & Accreditation Bureau. She outlined the objectives of WPSD and highlighted how Sri Lanka has commemorated this event since 2019 — recognizing and encouraging best practices aligned with each year's theme. She emphasized that these initiatives have paved the way toward strengthening a sustainable patient safety culture in the country.



4. Reaffirmation of the commitment by the ministry higher officials and the WHO Representative (WR)

The Honourable Minister of Health and Mass Media, the Secretary to the Ministry, and the WHO Country Representative for Sri Lanka shared their perspectives on patient safety, outlining the evolution of Sri Lanka's quality and patient safety programme and highlighting the achievements attained to date. The Honorable Minister and the WR in their speeches mentioned the country's commitment and WHO collaboration to reach patient safety goals through a centrally guided locally driven well established network in the state and private sector healthcare institutions. The Patient Safety & Accreditation Bureau introduced the journey taken so far and the way forward highlighting the steps ahead towards healthcare accreditation.



5. Launching of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) manual

A national level Continuous Professional Development CPD manual on patient safety and healthcare quality was launched to promote and support in services training for health staff. This manual mainly focusses on teaching on safety aspects.



6. Introduction of digital platform to assess performances of hospitals

A digital platform Quality Performance Evaluation Tool (QPET) was launched to monitor the progress of performances in patient safety and quality improvement activities in all types of hospitals and healthcare institutions in the country. Since 2013, this performances assessment was done using the manual methods.



These two events were the success of long-standing commitment by the Patient Safety and Accreditation Bureau of Sri Lanka and different healthcare experts and professionals who contributed immensely.

7. Keynote address

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Ishani Rodrigo, Professor of Pediatrics at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University, who emphasized the importance of giving greater attention to the care of children and neonates.



8. Panel discussion on safe care for every newborn & every child

Key agenda items of the main event included a panel discussion conducted by experts in the fields of pediatrics, obstetrics and medical administrators highlighting the importance and ongoing activities to ensure safety in every aspect related to newborn and child healthcare. This was helpful in giving more public awareness among healthcare staff and patient groups. The discussion was moderated by Dr Lal Panapitiya & Dr Upali Wijemanne.



9. Recognizing the best practices of line ministry hospitals & provincial hospitals

A key highlight of the event was the recognition of best practices submitted by hospitals under both the line ministry hospitals and provincial hospitals. This platform provided an opportunity for hospitals to showcase their innovative and sustainable initiatives aligned with this year's World Patient Safety Day theme.

Submissions were evaluated under two main categories i.e. line ministry hospitals and provincial hospitals and three outstanding institutions from each category were honoured with Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards. The award winners were also invited to present their initiatives within a 7-minute timeframe. In addition, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to all shortlisted institutions in both categories, acknowledging their valuable contributions to patient safety.



The award winners were listed down below.

Line ministry institutional category award winners

Award type	Name of the Hospital	Project
Gold Award	District General Hospital - Mannar	Minimizing the Potential Risk of Taking Repeated X-Rays due to Malposition of Newborn at SCBU
Silver Award	Base Hospital- Wathupitiwala	Implementation of Newborn Baby Cots in the Postnatal Ward
Bronze Award	Base Hospital - Udugama	Enhancing Neonatal Safety Through Standardized Monitoring: Implementation of a Newborn Observation Chart at Base Hospital Udugama.

Provincial ministry institutional category award winners

Award type	Name of the Hospital	Project
Gold Award	Castle Street Hospital for Women	Achieving Excellence in Kangaroo Mother Care
Silver Award	Teaching Hospital – Badulla	Bridging the Safety Gap: A Peripheral NICU's challenging path to Excellence in Uva
Bronze Award	National Institute of Mental Health	Precision for Protection

10. Awarding judges for their services

Two independent panels of judges, each comprising five members—including medical administrators, clinicians, and nursing representatives—were appointed to select the best performers. Their valuable contributions were also recognized and appreciated at the end.

**11. Lighting the monument**

The Colombo Municipal Council building which is considered as an emblem in the city was lit up in orange colour to demonstrate the country's commitment towards patient safety.

12. Special activity

This special activity was conducted to re-energize the participants and encourage physical movement, helping to break the monotony of the event.



13. Vote of thanks

Vote of thanks delivered by Dr Shashi Prabha Nawaratne, Consultant Community Physician of the Patient Safety & Accreditation Bureau.



13. Conclusion

The Patient Safety & accreditation Bureau on behalf of the Ministry of Health wishes to thank the WHO for their continuous collaboration and all the health staff for their commitment to ensure safety and quality patientcare services in Sri Lanka.



Reported by Dr Upuli Wijemanne, Director Patient Safety & Accreditation Bureau, 20.09.2025