

PRINT ON PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY LETTERHEAD

To: Sir Liam Donaldson
Chair, WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety
World Health Organization
IER/PSP
20 Avenue Appia
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Switzerland

Template of a letter of endorsement

As surgery is an integral part of health care and a major public health concern, and whilst the volume of surgery is rapidly growing worldwide, the
[INSERT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY NAME] welcomes the new "Safe Surgery Saves Lives" initiative of the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Alliance for Patient Safety, which for the first time, addresses patient safety in surgical care as a matter of global importance.

The.....[INSERT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY NAME] considers the improvement of surgical safety as essential to public health and endorses the concept of the "WHO Surgical Safety Checklist". The Checklist aims to support surgical teams anywhere in the world to ensure that patients undergo the right operation, at the correct body site, with safe anaesthesia, established infection prevention measures, and effective teamwork for safer care. The [INSERT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY NAME] also supports the establishment of "Surgical Vital Statistics" requesting that countries track surgical volume and in-hospital surgical death rates.

The importance of concerted unified action in these areas cannot be overstated. Together, we can prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths and complications from surgery on a global level.

The[INSERT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY NAME], therefore, strongly supports the "Safe Surgery Saves Lives" initiative and congratulates WHO on making it possible for all stakeholders to move in this direction.

Date _____ Signature _____

[INSERT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY NAME] _____