

**Power of humanity**

Council of Delegates of the International  
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



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## **COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

### **OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland  
22 – 23 June 2022

## **Movement Approach to Ensuring Patient Safety and Quality of Care**

**Draft zero resolution**

**Document prepared by  
the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red  
Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Geneva, September 2021

## **DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION**

### **Movement Approach to Ensuring Patient Safety and Quality of Care**

The Council of Delegates,

(PP1) *recalling* World Health Assembly Resolution WHA55.18, which urged Member States to “pay the closest possible attention to the problem of patient safety” and “establish and strengthen science-based systems, necessary for improving patients’ safety and the quality of health care”,

(PP2) *reaffirming* the principle “first do no harm” and *acknowledging* the existing commitments of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) to strengthening the Accountability to Affected People Framework and engagement with vulnerable and affected people, such as the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief,

(PP3) *recognizing* that improving and ensuring patient safety is a growing challenge for the health services delivered by the Movement and that unsafe health care causes a significant level of avoidable patient harm and human suffering and leads to an increase in the cost of care and a loss of trust in the health services provided, ultimately putting the reputation of the Movement and its components at risk,

(PP4) *considering* that we, as a Movement, are working more and more in partnerships calling for joint strategies and policies to support and improve patient safety, implement safety and quality programmes, initiatives and activities in a seamless approach, such as creating a patient safety culture within the Movement, and monitor common quality indicators, using common tools, to learn from mistakes and manage adverse events and their consequences,

(PP5) *recalling* Resolution CD/19/R1 “Movement-wide Commitments for Community Engagement and Accountability” which acknowledges the Movement’s contribution to initiatives to increase quality, effectiveness and accountability in humanitarian action, such as the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, and reaffirms the right of affected and vulnerable people to have their views on their needs heard, addressed and acknowledged,

(PP6) *emphasizing* the importance of ensuring that all personal data are processed in compliance with personal data protection and privacy principles to guarantee the rights and dignity of patients so that they have control and agency over their information, of being accountable to affected populations in accordance with precise data protection requirements and of ensuring the continued application of the “do no harm” principle in a digital environment,

## Operative paragraphs

1. *calls upon* the components of the Movement to develop a set of commitments to build on and complement existing or emerging initiatives intended to strengthen global action on patient safety and quality of clinical care, reduce duplication in approaches and increase the harmonization of tools linked to the Health Information System;
2. *invites* National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to work together to meet increasing global demands to improve and ensure the safety and quality of health care provided to affected and vulnerable populations in a manner consistent with the **Framework for Patient Safety and Quality of Care** developed by the IFRC and the ICRC, which will be presented to the National Societies at the 2022 IFRC General Assembly for adoption (*Hyperlink to be added*);
3. *encourages* all the components of the Movement to dedicate appropriate and sufficient human, financial and technical resources to fulfilling the Movement-wide commitments;
4. *requests* all the components of the Movement to work together to avoid duplication in approaches and increase harmonization, strengthen their individual and collective capacities and progressively integrate these commitments and actions into management and decision-making processes and tools for monitoring patient safety and improving quality of care;
5. *recommends* ensuring that any Movement-wide framework developed under this initiative includes personal data protection and privacy principles, as set out in the Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action;
6. *requests* the components of the Movement to set up a Movement Reference Group (MRG) to leverage and build on the expertise of National Societies advanced in this field, provide advice and make strategic recommendations to improve patient safety and quality of clinical care in the Movement;
7. *mandates* the MRG to develop a Movement-wide policy on patient safety and quality of care which will define, harmonize and standardize the approaches taken to address patient safety and quality of care for the people we serve for presentation and adoption at the next Council of Delegates in 2023;
8. *recommends* that if a Movement-wide policy on patient safety and quality of care is presented for adoption at the Council of Delegates in 2023, it should also be presented at the International Conference to involve the States in line with Resolution WHA55.18 (2002) urging Member States to “pay the closest possible attention to the problem of patient safety” and “establish and strengthen science-based systems, necessary for improving patients’ safety and the quality of health care”, recognizing that patient safety is a critical element of, and the foundation for, the delivery of quality health care.