



# #WorldAnaesthesiaDay Toolkit



World Anaesthesia Day (16th October) brings people together to raise awareness of the importance of anaesthesia as an essential component of safe surgery, and the need to advance access to safe and affordable anaesthesia worldwide.

This #WorldAnaesthesiaDay, the WFSA are asking our supporters to get involved in the SAFE-T campaign and to promote the importance of safe anaesthesia in improving patient care.

This toolkit provides an overview of #WorldAnaesthesiaDay, information on the SAFE-T Campaign, and offers suggestions on how you can take part.



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# 30%

More than 30% of the Global Burden of Disease stems from conditions that could be treated through surgical intervention



More than 80% of children in the world's poorest countries are likely to have required surgical treatment by 15 years old

## Over 5 billion people do not have access to safe and affordable anaesthesia & surgery when they need it

# 16.9 MILLION

Lives were lost from conditions needing surgical care in 2010. This is over 4x the number of people who died from HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria combined.



70% of district hospitals in parts of sub-Saharan Africa don't have a pulse oximeter

Globally people are suffering due to a lack of access to safe surgery and anaesthesia. This includes access to procedures that are often straightforward and cost effective.

- ◆ There is a shortage of more than 1 million specialist surgeons, anaesthesiologists and obstetricians worldwide
- ◆ More than 290,000 women die from pregnancy and birth complications every year - 90% of these deaths are preventable

**2.28 million** additional anaesthesiologists, surgeons and obstetricians will be needed globally by 2030.

**SAFE ANAESTHESIA IS ESSENTIAL FOR SAFE SURGERY.**  
**SAFE ANAESTHESIA SAVES LIVES.**

# #WorldAnaesthesiaDay

Take part by following these 5 steps

1

Print or electronically share one or more of the banners in this pack (pages 4 - 6 ) - **you can print/electronically share one of our examples or write your own message on our blank template**

2

Add your organisation name and location to the banner (e.g. **WFSA - London, UK**)

3

Take a photo with the banner in support of safe anaesthesia and the WFSA's Safe Anaesthesia For Everybody—Today **"SAFE-T"** Campaign

4

Post your photo with the hashtags **#SAFET** and **#WorldAnaesthesiaDay**. Tag us **@WFSAorg** on Twitter and **"@WFSA - World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists"** on Facebook.

5

Ask your friends and colleagues to share their support too!

**@WFSAorg**



**#SAFE-T #WorldAnaesthesiaDay**

# I've joined the SAFE-T Network!



**#SAFE-T #WorldAnaesthesiaDay**  
**@WFSAorg**

**Safe anaesthesia is  
essential for safe  
surgery!**



.....

**#SAFE-T #WorldAnaesthesiaDay  
@WFSAorg**

**4 X more lives are lost  
from untreated surgical  
conditions than HIV, TB &  
malaria combined!**



.....

**#SAFE-T #WorldAnaesthesiaDay  
@WFSAorg**



In order to be able to realise the [International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia](#) and improve patient safety we must first recognise that this is a collaborative effort across governments, industry, civil society and beyond, and also understand where and why meeting the Standards poses a challenge. We must “map the gap” in access to safe anaesthesia and use this data to influence advancement in every hospital, and for every patient.

It is not possible for one organisation alone to collect the data needed to drive and influence change, and so the WFSA has launched the Safe Anaesthesia For Everybody – Today “SAFE-T” Campaign to unite individuals, industry and organisations behind a shared mission.

## HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

The “SAFE-T Campaign” was born out of an advocacy initiative with the same name launched on World Anaesthesia Day 2015. Anaesthesia providers were asked to “unite for safe anaesthesia” on social media.

The response was incredible, with thousands of anaesthesiologists taking part worldwide.

This success inspired the creation of a revamped SAFE-T Campaign, a collaboration between governments, organisations, industry (SAFE-T Consortium) and civil society (SAFE-T Network) to commit to the advancement of patient safety and the International Standards.



### SAFE-T Network

Individual anaesthesia providers

### SAFE-T Consortium

Industry & patient focused organisations

#### Overall Objectives

1. **Bring together individuals, industry and patient focused organisations** working in the field of anaesthesiology and global health with the WFSA’s global network of anaesthesia professionals
2. **Demonstrate a joint commitment** to advancing patient safety and the International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia
3. **Raise awareness of the need for safe anaesthesia** as an essential element of safe surgery
4. **Gather data** to “map the gap” in access to safe anaesthesia
5. **Raise awareness of the lack of provision and the need to take action**
6. **Identify opportunities for collaboration** between the WFSA, the SAFE-T Network and the SAFE-T Consortium members to improve the practice of and access to safe anaesthesia

There are so many ways to become involved with the SAFE-T Network on and after World Anaesthesia Day. Whether you would like to give two minutes to show your support or spend more time helping us “map the gap”, we hope you will sign up and join the Network today!

**Sign up!**



Sign up to the SAFE-T Network at [www.wfsahq.org/SAFE-T](http://www.wfsahq.org/SAFE-T)



Learn more about the **International Standards** and the latest advancements in patient safety



Be part of a **network of forward thinking and active anaesthesia providers** from around the world

Together we will raise awareness of safe anaesthesia as an essential element of safe surgery, and the action required to ensure universal access. [Click here to sign up.](#)

**Members will receive a printable SAFE-T Network certificate, exclusive updates and event invitations to SAFE-T Network events once they have activated their membership.**

## Tell us how anaesthesia is performed in your hospital

As part of the SAFE-T Network you will be asked to tell us about how anaesthesia is performed in your hospital or training centre.

A short questionnaire will be sent to all members in the coming months. The questionnaire is designed to help us “map the gap” by finding out about the different barriers anaesthesia providers may face in adhering to the International Standards, particularly in relation to shortages in workforce, infrastructure, medicines and equipment.



**It is by mapping this gap that we can provide strong evidence to Ministries of Health and other governmental bodies that will ensure more is being done to close the gap.**

## Social Media - #SAFET

Never before in human history have we been this globally connected, and never before have individuals and organisations had the ability to engage, teach, learn and influence change through social media.

In the past year the WFSA has launched two very successful social media campaigns based on protecting and improving patient safety. The first was on World Anaesthesia Day 2015 and the second was in response to a global threat to vital ketamine access.

Please link with us on social media to keep up to date with active campaigns relating to #SAFET, safe anaesthesia, and patient safety.

Click here to find our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.



## Speak up! Write to government & the press

Words demonstrating support for safe anaesthesia and the importance of medical professionals adhering to the [International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia](#) are so important. Often governments and decision-makers are not aware of the barriers anaesthesiologists may face in meeting the International Standards, particularly in relation to shortages in workforce, infrastructure, medicines and equipment—and the impact this has on patients.

There are many outlets where you can get your voice and opinion heard. Two of the best ways of sharing this information in a meaningful way is to write to a local or international news outlet and/or write to a political representative in your area. If you would like guidance on how to do this please contact Niki at [comms@wfsahq.org](mailto:comms@wfsahq.org)

## Further reading

[‘Global Surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development,’ written by The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery:](#)

[Disease Control Priorities 3: Essential Surgery published for the World Bank:](#)

[Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage](#), Resolution approved at the 68th World Health Assembly on 22nd May 2015

For more information on the SAFE-T Campaign and how you can get involved, please visit [www.wfsahq.org/SAFE-T](http://www.wfsahq.org/SAFE-T) or email Niki at [comms@wfsahq.org](mailto:comms@wfsahq.org).

[Don't forget to link with us on social media!](#)

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