



الجائزة الوطنية
للسلامة المرضى
National Patient
Safety Award

المركز السعودي
للسلامة المرضى
SAUDI PATIENT
SAFETY CENTER



National Patient Safety Award

Submission Guidelines



Award overview

The Saudi Patient Safety Center (SPSC) established the annual National Patient Safety Award since 2018 , under the patronage of the Minister of Health and Chairman of the Saudi Patient Safety Center Board . It continues to be annual, recognizing novel and innovative applied projects and initiatives that have contributed to the Saudi Healthcare sector's goal of reducing patient harm and spreading new and creative ways of promoting or enhancing patient safety.

Goal

To recognize successful patient safety innovations and best practices that act as role models and are widely distributed and used in healthcare facilities to promote an organizational culture that improves healthcare safety

The National Patient Safety Award Values



Innovation



Recognition



Impact



Motivation

National Patient Safety Award Tracks 2025

This year's National Patient Safety Award is structured into 10 tracks, each of which the applicant can apply for, and all entries must be relevant to patient safety.

Track1

**Students and
Researchers**

Track2

**Patient Engagement
for Their Safety**

Track3

**Maternal and
Newborn Safety**

Track4

Medication Safety

Track5

**Training for Patient
Safety**

In Partnership with Saudi Commission
for Health Specialties (SCFHS)

Track6

Choosing Wisely

Track7

**General Track for
Patient Safety**

Track8

**Infection Control and
Prevention in Healthcare
Organizations**

Track9

**Leadership in
Patient Safety**

Track10

Emotional Safety

1. Students and Researchers

Purpose: This track aims to engage and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals by encouraging university students and researchers to develop and submit innovative ideas and solutions for patient safety.

Description: This track is for students and researchers in healthcare-related fields. Participants are invited to present projects, research, or initiatives to improve patient safety. Creative thinking and use of new technologies, processes, or educational tools are encouraged to strengthen safety practices.

Topics

All issues related to patient safety.

Criteria:

- 1 Innovation and solutions.
- 2 expected impact on patient safety.
- 3 feasibility and practicality of implementation.
- 4 clear methodology.
- 5 addressing key challenges and trends in patient safety.

2. Patient Engagement for Their Safety

Purpose: This track honors initiatives that work to improve patient participation in care for their own safety through programs, projects, strategies, or innovative technologies that actively involve patients in co-designing safety strategies.

Description: Focuses on improving patient and family engagement in developing high-quality, integrated, and people-centered health services. Treating patients as partners in healthcare leads to significant gains in safety, satisfaction, and health outcomes.

Topics:

- 1 Engaging patients in designing safety policies and strategies.
- 2 practical projects to enhance communication between care providers and patients.
- 3 improving long-term patient health and well-being.
- 4 utilizing technologies that empower patients.
- 5 supporting community involvement and empowers patients for safety.



3. Maternal and Newborn Safety

Purpose: This track aims to highlight the achievements of those who make significant progress in improving the safety of maternity and midwifery services by implementing new and innovative programs or technologies. The goal is to reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates, minimize risks and harm during childbirth, and improve the quality and safety of healthcare provided to women and newborns.

Description: This track has strong focus on improving continuity and safety in healthcare, given the substantial burden of risks and harm that unsafe care poses to mothers and newborns. Submissions should highlight improvements in safety protocols, use of advanced technologies, patient outcomes, and overall diagnostic safety practices.

Topics

- 1 Promoting respectful care for safe childbirth.
- 2 Reporting and analyzing safety incidents during childbirth.
- 3 Preventing and managing postpartum hemorrhage.
- 4 Reducing unnecessary and harmful practices affecting women and newborns during birth.
- 5 Training on safe caesarean protocols and strengthening the capabilities of healthcare workers.
- 6 Improving detection and management of high-risk pregnancies in low-resource environments.
- 7 Enhancing the safe use of medication and blood transfusion during childbirth.
- 8 Improving outcomes of newborn screening and genetic management.



4. Medication Safety

Purpose: This track aims to recognize those who make significant progress in improving medication safety by implementing programs, projects, strategies, or innovative technologies that ensure the safe use of medications without causing harm.

Description: Unsafe medication practices and medication errors are major causes of preventable harm in healthcare worldwide. The economic and psychological burden of unsafe medication care is also substantial and cannot be ignored. Therefore, medication safety is widely used in healthcare interventions.

Topics

- 1 Improving medication safety during care transitions.
- 2 Reducing risks in high-risk situations.
- 3 Decreasing inappropriate pharmacy practices.
- 4 Reporting medication errors and learning from them.



5. Patient Safety Training:

In Partnership with Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS)

Purpose: This track focuses on initiatives aimed at improving training, effectively integrating patient safety concepts, and demonstrating excellence in patient safety training.

Description: Training is an essential requirement for all healthcare professionals. The healthcare sector is constantly evolving, and today's best practices can change quickly. As a result, continuous training is necessary for all healthcare practitioners, starting from trainees, to ensure high-quality and safe patient care.

Topics

- 1 Integrating patient safety learning and practice into educational and training curricula.
- 2 Innovative strategies for training and education in patient safety, such as interprofessional education.
- 3 Creating a culture of collaborative learning based on the needs of practitioners, addressing knowledge, skill, and attitude gaps by applying patient safety standards.
- 4 Training interventions to enhance leaders' perceptions of patient safety.
- 5 Organization-based training programs that measure skill development, behavior change, and improvement in organizational outcomes.



6. Choosing Wisely

Purpose: : This track aims to highlight the Choosing Wisely initiative and honor successful projects that implement this approach.

Description: : This track focuses on selecting projects within the healthcare sector that apply the Choosing Wisely initiative. The initiative seeks to enhance communication between doctors and patients to reduce low-value and unnecessary interventions by empowering patients to choose safe, evidence-based care, and avoid repeating tests or procedures that have already been completed.

Projects can be recognized for successfully applying Choosing Wisely initiatives and achieving noticeable results in one of the following fields:

Topics

- 1 Emergency Department
- 2 Primary Healthcare
- 3 Pharmacy
- 4 Radiology
- 5 Laboratory
- 6 Other areas

7.General Track for Patient Safety

The award in this track recognizes those who make significant progress in improving patient safety by introducing new and innovative systems, programs, initiatives, or technologies. These projects aim to achieve high-quality results and demonstrate best practices in areas such as diagnostic safety, surgical safety improvement, or other important topics including but not limited to:

Topics

- 1 Innovation in diagnostic and surgical techniques.
- 2 Improving patient safety through technology.
- 3 Mental health in the workplace.
- 4 Patient safety in primary and remote healthcare.
- 5 Safety in urgent and emergency care and referrals.
- 6 Enhancing care for the elderly and home healthcare services.



8. Infection Control and Prevention in Healthcare Organizations

Purpose: This track aims to recognize individuals, teams, and healthcare institutions in the Kingdom that have made measurable progress in preventing, early detection, and effective management of bacterial sepsis, recognizing it as a major challenge to patient safety and quality of care. This track aligns with Saudi Vision ٢٠٣٠, the National Transformation Program, and the standards of the Saudi Patient Safety Center and the Ministry of Health, aiming to enhance care quality and reduce infection-related complication and mortality rates in hospitals and healthcare centers.

Description: Healthcare-associated infections are life-threatening emergencies caused by excessive immune responses to infections, leading to organ dysfunction and potentially progressing to shock and multiple organ failure. Infections present a challenge in hospitals, especially among the elderly, newborns, pregnant women, and patients with chronic diseases or immune deficiency. This track encourages programs that show concrete improvements in early sepsis detection rates, reduced mortality, and enhanced patient experience, considering the specific needs of the Saudi healthcare system context.

Topics

- 1 Early recognition and rapid response.
- 2 Implementing early screening protocols and tools in emergency departments, intensive care units, and inpatient wards.
- 3 Applying nationally approved infection prevention bundles such as CAUTI, CLABSI, SSI, and Sepsis
- 4 Supervising and optimizing antibiotic use.
- 5 Training physicians and pharmacists on national antibiotic treatment guidelines
- 6 Technology and innovation used in infection prevention and reduction



9. Leadership in Patient Safety

Purpose: This track aims to honor outstanding leaders in the health sectors or institutions who have shown exceptional commitment and clear vision in supporting, innovating, and empowering healthcare practitioners and patients to advance the concept of patient safety. The track focuses on leaders who embrace safety as a core value, create an environment that encourages innovation, and ensure the involvement of all stakeholders in achieving the highest standards of safe care.

Description: Effective leadership is a cornerstone of building a safe and trustworthy healthcare system. This track is designed to celebrate leaders who go beyond traditional roles to be catalysts for positive change in patient safety. This includes leaders who set clear strategies, provide necessary resources, support initiatives that empower healthcare practitioners to apply best practices, and engage patients as key partners in their safety journey. Their commitment goes beyond compliance with standards to introduce a culture of accountability and continuous learning from errors, leading to concrete and sustainable improvements in patient safety outcomes.

Target Group: Senior executives responsible for decision-making, including hospital or facility directors, sector managers, medical directors, executive directors, or chief executives.

Topics

- 1 Leadership initiatives to introduce a strong organizational culture focused on patient safety, inside or outside the organization.
- 2 Supporting healthcare practitioners by encouraging the use of best patient safety practices.
- 3 Specialized programs to support healthcare professionals scientifically and psychologically after patient safety events, enabling learning without fear of blame.
- 4 Leading initiatives that strengthen patient and family engagement.
- 5 Adoption of innovative solutions and advanced technologies by leadership to reduce patient safety events.
- 6 Demonstrating effective leadership in managing patient safety crises.



10. Emotional Safety

Purpose: This track aims to recognize innovative programs, systems, and practices that strengthen Emotional Safety as a core dimension of patient safety. Emotional Safety refers to an intentional, interdisciplinary practice that promotes trust, resilience, healing, and protection from emotional harm during healthcare experiences. Projects under this track should demonstrate measurable progress in reducing fear, distress, trauma, or psychological harm, particularly for children, adolescents, and other vulnerable populations, and advancing a culture that values both physical and emotional safety equally.

Description: Emotional Safety is foundational to safe, high-quality care. Evidence shows that fear, unmanaged anxiety, poor communication, and traumatic healthcare experiences can cause long-term psychological and behavioral consequences, reduce adherence to treatment, and negatively affect trust and future healthcare engagement.

Projects may range from frontline clinical interventions to institutional-level policy or culture change initiatives. Submissions should reflect clear methodology, innovation, measurable outcomes, and potential for replication.

Topics

- 1 Identifying psychosocial risks, strengths, coping needs, trauma history, and distress levels
- 2 Delivering emotionally safe, developmentally appropriate, and trauma-informed care
- 3 Creating physical and organizational environments that support emotional well-being
- 4 Building workforce capability and sustaining emotional safety culture



Categories

Healthcare Organizations	Healthcare Professionals	Community and Organizations
• Hospitals • Primary healthcare centers • Ambulatory Care centers • Pharmacists • Professional Societies and Associations	• Leadership • Physician • Pharmacist • Nurse • Rehabilitation Therapist • Allied health professionals	• Community Figures • Payers • Media • Patient and their families • Insurance Companies and Service Purchase Program • Government Organization • Non- Governmental and Nonprofit Organizations

Submission Eligibility and General Criteria:

This award is given to recognize the efforts made towards improving patient safety to obtain safe healthcare that contributes to avoiding harm in the health care system; Therefore, there are several criteria that must be considered when preparing for submission, (All submissions must satisfy the following):

1

An implemented project related to the announced tracks, that has not won the National Patient Safety Award.

2

There is no specific timeframe for the project, as long it can exhibit a unique and creative approach that can be implemented by other organizations of different sizes.

3

Collaborative and interprofessional team approach that includes leaders/senior management.

4

Demonstrate exceptional commitment to improving patient safety within an organization or community institution.

5

Use of evidence and leading practices. In addition to attaching related supporting documents .

6

Adoption of a comprehensive approach to quality improvement/change management and program implementation.

7

Avoid submitting patient safety projects that are considered routine daily work.

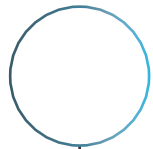
8

Submissions must be in the English language except for the community organizations .

9

All Nominations must be submitted on the official electronic submission form.





Submission Process:

1



**NPSA
Application**

2



**Concurrent
Requirements Check**

3



**Concurrent Screening
of Accepted Entries**

4



**Evaluation of
Screened Entries**

5



**Award Committee to
Shortlist Nominees**

6



**External Judges to
Shortlist Finalists**

7



**Notifying 2025
Winners**

8



NPSA Ceremony

Evaluation Matrix and Judging Criteria:

This will be applied on all the submitted applications.

Criteria	Description	Percentage
Topic Alignment	Clear project rationale, supported with evidence and strategy link to patient safety theme	%10
Impact	Demonstrate the outcome and scope of the initiative, and how the project or effort has resulted in an identifiable or measurable change in patient safety outcomes, using quantitative and/or qualitative evidence	%40
Spread and Sustainability	Ability to sustain achievements over time and the potential of the project to be adopted by other organizations, individuals, and communities	%15
Value and Innovation	Fresh, creative approach to advancing patient safety	%20
Engagement	Describe how the patients and families were involved in care design and other key stakeholders	%15
Total		%100

How to prepare your project for submission?

Projects can be:

- Pilot Projects/ initiatives that have been implemented which for example demonstrate innovative approaches, ideas, processes.
- Creative projects, programs, initiatives that are implemented.

Project Overview:

This high-level description includes the patient safety topic, identifies the overall goal, time frame, approach, results, target population, stakeholders, and outcome.

Project Detailed Description:

Detail description should include the following components, if any are not applicable, please indicate:



Components of Project Detailed Description

Background	• Situational Analysis and Rationale • Explain the primary factor that prompted this project • Current state of the issue and any evidence • What is the issue?
Topic Alignment	• Main Project Objective: Please describe the scope, goal, objectives of the project, what were you aiming to address?. • Timeframe: Provide the time frame of the project implementation (dates). • Approach: Describe the process /methodology utilized, is it novel? • Target population: Describe who is the target i.e. population/area/unit/ staff/system/patients/community? • Patient Safety Topic: Indicate which patient safety topic your project aligns with, • Challenges: Explain any challenges faced and how you addressed them
Impact	• What results /outcomes were achieved through this project? • Any key performance indicators, as appropriate.
Spread and Sustainability	• Describe the sustainability plan. • Indicate how the project is scalable and replicable.
Value and Innovation	• Explain the added value of the project, i.e., cost savings, reduce risks. • Describe how it is a novel or creative idea/approach/ process/ technology to advance patient safety.
Engagement	• Describe the engagement approach Identify the key stakeholders, patients and families, community, staff, etc. how were they engaged? • If this was a team effort, identify the members, their roles, and contributions.
Supplementary Documents	Provide all required supporting documents that demonstrate evidence such as policies, questionnaires, surveys, process maps, charts, records, tools, videos, evaluations, testimonials, stories, etc. Documents can be attached as appendixes.



Who judge:

Experts from various fields, qualifications, and some well-known figures in the healthcare sector make up the judging panel

Criteria Guidance:

In the following part, you will find detailed criteria guidance in relation to different tracks that will assist you in giving the essential information and fairly explaining your project in accordance with your category while filling out the application form

Healthcare Organizations, Professional, Societies and Associations:

Topic Alignment	• A clear rationale for the initiative • What did you see as a need for improvement or need for change? • Clearly, describe the problem and its importance? • What steps or methodologies were used?
Impact	• Demonstrate, using quantitative and/or qualitative evidence, how the project or initiative has resulted in an identifiable or measurable change in patient safety outcomes. • Provide supporting documents.
Engagement	Provide description and evidence of the techniques utilized, for engagement, collaboration, and partnership with patients/families, staff, multi-disciplinary teams, leadership, and/or larger community that were employed throughout the initiative.
Spread sustainability	• Will be sustained (is there a sustainability plan?). • How they are or can be replicated and/or spread to other areas of the organization and externally.
Innovation	Describe how this project or initiative is innovative in developing, adapting, or adopting new approaches that improved patient safety through patient and family-centered care and patient engagement, design, technology, systems processes.

Healthcare Professionals (Individuals):

Topic Alignment	A clear rationale for the initiative What did you see as a need for improvement or need for change? Clearly, describe the problem and its importance? What steps or methodologies were used? Is highly regarded as a role model and mentor.
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Impact	• Demonstrate, using quantitative and/or qualitative evidence, how the leadership team being impacted by the project or initiative to improve patient safety aspects. • Evidence of developing creative strategies to incorporate and promote evidence-based practice. • An explanation of how the work has been informed by existing best practices. • Demonstrates proactive leadership as a change agent to advance patient safety goals and objectives • Supporting documents.
Engagement	• Describe the techniques/approach used for engagement, collaboration, and partnership with the leadership team and others throughout the initiative.
Spread sustainability	• Demonstrate how the initiative, its results, and the engagement techniques used are or will be sustained is there a sustainability plan?), How they are or can be replicated and/or spread to other areas of the organization and externally.
Innovation	• Describe the level of creativity and innovation that improved patient safety through patient and family-centered care and patient engagement, design, technology, systems processes.
Community Leaders and Organizations:	
Topic Alignment	• Demonstrate how successful patient safety initiative practices are . • Demonstrates a commitment and passion for improving health care and patient safety for their community It is highly regarded as a role model and mentor.
Impact	• Demonstrate how the patients/families/volunteers' contribution to the initiative leads to identifiable or measurable improvements in patient safety outcomes. • Provide evidence surveys, videos, stories, testimonials, etc.
Engagement	• Describe the way(s) in which the patients/families/ community engaged effectively and collaboratively with other team members.



Spread sustainability	Demonstrate that the role played by the patients/families as part of the team and the successes and lessons learned are or can be shared and/or spread to other patients/families/ volunteers or other areas of the organization and externally.
Innovation	Describe how the patient/family contributed to developing, adapting or adopting new and innovative approaches, technology, process, etc., including approaches to patient engagement and patient-centered care, which improved patient safety.
Training centers, trainee , or group of trainees:	
Topic Alignment	• Demonstrate how successful are patient safety training initiative practices. • Demonstrates a commitment and passion for improving health care and patient safety through training. • It is highly regarded as a role model and mentor.
Impact	• Demonstrate, using quantitative and/or qualitative evidence, how the training center/trainer being impacted by the project or initiative to improve patient safety aspects. • Supporting documents.
Engagement	Describe the way(s) in which the trainer and the training center engaged effectively and collaboratively with other team members throughout the initiative.
Spread sustainability	Demonstrate how the initiative, its results, and the engagement techniques used are or will be sustained is there a sustainability plan?), How they are or can be replicated and/or spread to other areas of the organization and externally.
Innovation	Describe the level of creativity and innovation that improved patient safety through training units, training centers engagement, design, technology, systems processes.



Tips For Successful Entries

Keep in mind that you can enter in more than one track:

Doing so will increase your chances of winning! but ensure you address the criteria with each entry - each track.

Clearly set out the benefits of your entry:

Write in clear, concise, avoiding jargon, and abbreviations.

Use attachments wisely:

Attach documents to support your application but keep them brief and to the point. They should only contain material that will assist the judges in understanding the impact of your work.

Ensure to back up your project with evidence:

Judges are looking for entries that have good data. For example, measurable results of your actions that support your entry, Key actions that were taken to achieve your results, and feedback from those affected by your project.

Ask an expert to look through your entry prior to submission:

Judges are looking for entries that have good data. For example, measurable results of your actions that support your entry, Key actions that were taken to achieve your results, and feedback from those affected by your project.

Prior submission:

To prevent being disqualified, double-check that you have completed all of the entry requirements and given all of the needed requirements.



General Terms and Conditions

- Generally, entries are accepted in English, and All applicants must complete all required fields in the official application form, including contact information, project description, provide supplemental materials as requested and a detailed explanation for each project component as indicated on the nomination form.
- The submissions with Arabic language could be accepted from applicants from the community only, which can be based on personal narrated written stories and supported by evidence of pictures, videos, paintings, volunteer projects, etc.

The following rules and regulations are applied to all nominations:

- The project must be non-nationally recognized previously. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the award.
- The project that is submitted must be applied/ implemented in the organization and submitted with supporting documents.
- Timeframe for projects: There is no minimum or maximum duration for the project, as long as it can exhibit uniqueness and creativity and may be implemented by other organizations of varying sizes.
- If needed, accepted nominations might be asked to provide additional supporting materials and documents regarding their project by the Judging Committee.
- The decision of the panel of judges for the selected winner, is final and will not be subject to further discussions and/or negotiation.
- All documents, materials and submissions would be the property of the SPSC and will not be returned. Also, the SPSC will be authorized to publish nominations and content through media either within KSA or outside, including the sponsors' websites.
- Award winner recipient (one representative of the institution, team, or individual) should be present at the Annual 2025 NPSA in Riyadh, KSA.
- Nominators will be required to complete the 2025 National Patient Safety Award Declaration Form.
- All successful applicants will be informed by email once the judges decided the winners according to the above-mentioned criteria, and individuals must confirm their place within five working days of receipt of the email. Failure to do so will result in the place being offered to someone else.



- The quality of the submission contains minimal spelling and grammatical errors, jargon, and acronyms. The submission is presented coherently.
- Nominees should demonstrate exceptional commitment to improving the patient safety within a healthcare institution and/or in a community organization.
- Nominees should demonstrate outstanding leadership and professional excellence to achieving the goal of improving patient safety, improving quality of care, and enhancing patient and family empowerment.
- Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to communication between and among health professionals, as well as with patient and family as appropriate.
- More than one judge will evaluate each nomination to help reduce the judging bias, and to ensure that all evaluation criteria are applied consistently and appropriately.
- For evaluation purposes, nominees should refrain from identifying or mentioning institution or community organization names in the body of the submission and attachments.



Submission deadline:

13 December 2025

FAQs

If you received the award last year, can you apply this year?

Answer: Yes, as long as it is a different project.

If I have any questions while preparing my submission, who can help?

Answer: send an email to awardspsc@spsc.gov.sa questions that will be answered.

Can I apply in Arabic?

Answer: only community groups can apply in Arabic. If you do apply in Arabic, you will be requested to translate the submission to English.

How many entries can I make?

Answer: As many as you want but projects should be different and not duplicated at all the tracks.

Can you apply as an individual or do you have to go through an organization?

Answer: You can submit as individual.

If you have questions, please email us:

awardspsc@spsc.gov.sa





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