

WHO WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY 2025: '*Safe care for every newborn and every child*'

Contributions from the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)

The International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR), which is a non-state actor in an official relationship with the WHO, acknowledges the significance of **World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) 2025**, focusing on the theme, '**Safe care for every newborn and every child**'. This year's theme emphasizes the need for stronger measures to protect children from preventable harm in healthcare. IUPHAR recognizes that strengthening safety in pediatrics and newborn care is essential to achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goal 3.2 target of ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of five. The clinical pharmacology section of IUPHAR notes that WHO calls for urgent action to eliminate avoidable harm in pediatrics and newborn care under the slogan '**Patient safety from the start!**'. Addressing medication safety, accounting for almost 50% preventable patient harm is a key patient safety area in promoting safe childbirth and postnatal care, a primary aspect of focus of the IUPHAR Clinical and Translational Section.

IUPHAR celebrates World Smart Medication Day (WSMD) every year in May, focusing on a particular theme and organizing a student poster competition for students from around the world. IUPHAR also holds a webinar on the chosen theme, organized by the Medical and Clinical Pharmacology Committee of the Clinical and Translational Section.

As the **WHO World Patient Safety Day 2025** approaches on 17 September, on the theme '**Safe care for every newborn and every child**', IUPHAR wishes to highlight the relevance of the 2024 and 2025 WSMD themes to this day.

The theme of WSMD was 'Drug evaluation at the extremes of age' in 2024 and 'Sex/gender differences in Clinical Pharmacology' in 2025. We explored how extremes of age and sex/gender influence drug response, safety and efficacy, which brought together world-renowned experts in pediatrics, geriatrics, education and global health. The recording of the 2025 WSMD webinar can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZkEHlD_7aY and the recording of the 2024 WSMD is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deHWTNCik3A> and the paediatric pharmacology education modules can be accessed here <https://iuphar.org/sections-subcoms/pediatric/meetings-events/>.

An article summarizing the rich content discussed during the webinar in 2024 titled 'From cradle to cane—(Dis)similarities between paediatric and geriatric clinical pharmacology: A commentary arising from the 2024 International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) World Smart Medication Day' is available at <https://bpspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/bcp.70092>

Another paper on the same theme titled 'Clinical Pharmacology in special populations : at the extremes of age' can be accessed here <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1586/17512433.1.4.467?needAccess=true>

The article published on the 2025 theme titled 'Sex/gender differences in clinical pharmacology: A perspective from the IUPHAR World Smart Medication Day 2025', which includes sections on neonatal and maternal pharmacology, and on the importance of considering data disaggregated by age and sex, is available here <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1043661825003147>

IUPHAR aims to contribute to the WHO WPSD initiative by giving further visibility to these educational materials, as we work together to promote safer healthcare for children worldwide.