



THE NATIONAL PHARMACOVIGILANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER LEBANON ISSUE 16 OCTOBER 2025

Prepared by:

The Pharmacovigilance Team at the
Ministry of Public Health

OUTLINE

I. EMPOWER YOUR SAFETY

World Patient Safety Day 2025

II. EXCHANGING THE EXPERIENCE

A. 24th ISoP Annual Meeting - Cairo 2025

B. WHO-PIDM Meeting - Cairo 2025

III. SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

TV Interview

IV. REGULATORY ADVANCEMENT

WHO Global Benchmarking Tools (GBT)

I. EMPOWER YOUR SAFETY

World Patient Safety Day 2025



**World
Patient Safety
Day** 17 September 2025

This year's theme is "Safe care for every newborn and every child", with the slogan: "Patient safety from the start!"

💡 Why this matters

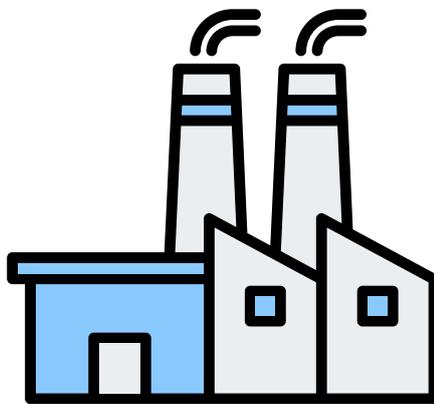
Newborns and children are uniquely vulnerable. Their bodies, care needs, and responses to treatments differ greatly from adults. Healthcare delivered without sufficient adaptation for age, weight, development, or context can lead to preventable harm.

The National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP) at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) actively contributed to the global event "World Patient Safety Day 2025"- September 17th, 2025, reaffirming its commitment to advancing patient safety in Lebanon.

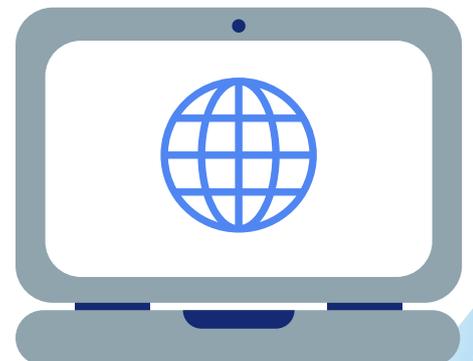
The program's activities were multifaceted, engaging:



Hospitals



Pharmaceutical Sector



International Partners

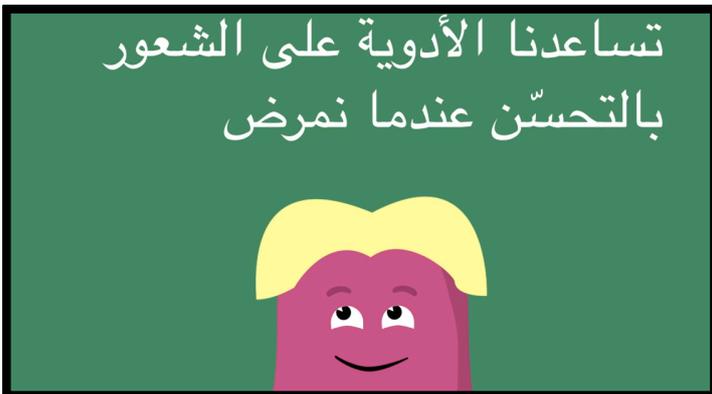
I. EMPOWER YOUR SAFETY

World Patient Safety Day 2025

A. Hospital Engagement

As part of the Patient Safety Day 2025 activities, the Lebanese National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP) invited hospitals across Lebanon to actively engage in the campaign.

To support these initiatives, the LNPVP provided four educational and awareness videos to hospital pharmacovigilance focal points, which could be integrated into their campaigns to raise awareness among healthcare professionals and patients.



Outcome:

A total of **nine hospitals** participated in the campaign, submitting photos and videos that documented their activities for the occasion. Each hospital shared evidence of its engagement with the LNPVP, reflecting a strong national commitment to promoting patient safety.

I. EMPOWER YOUR SAFETY

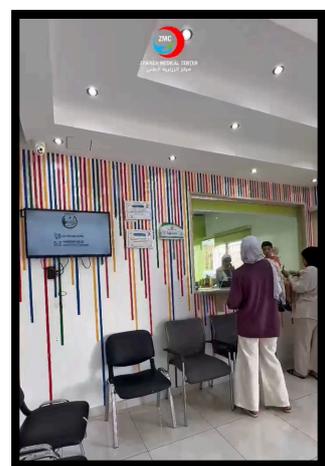
World Patient Safety Day 2025

A. Hospital Engagement

Participating Hospitals (alphabetical order):

1. Beirut Eye & ENT Specialist Hospital (BESH)
2. Beirut Governmental University Hospital - Karantina
3. Haykel Hospital
4. Hiram Hospital
5. Lebanese Italian Hospital
6. Makassed General Hospital
7. Rafic Hariri University Hospital (RHUH)
8. Tel Chiha Hospital
9. Zraieh Medical Center (ZMC)

The LNPVP looks forward to greater involvement from hospitals in future Patient Safety Day activities, encouraging stronger collaboration to enhance patient safety nationwide.



I. EMPOWER YOUR SAFETY

World Patient Safety Day 2025

B. Educational Session for a Multinational Company

On **September 16, 2025**, the LNPVP team (Team Lead Dr. Rita Karam, Dr. Abeer Zeitoun – Clinical and Technical Manager, Dr. Aya Ibrahim – Clinical PV Officer) was invited by a Marketing Authorization Holder (MAH) to deliver an educational session, which was attended by all staff members. The PV team shared with the attendees the LNPVP activities and achievements, highlighting the important role of MAH at the local and multinational level.

Dr. Rita Karam (Team Lead): Opened the session with a general introduction to pharmacovigilance, followed by a summary of the LNPVP activities and achievements, including case reporting, awareness campaigns, safety reports, scientific publications, and the release of the Lebanese Good Pharmacovigilance Practices (LGVP) guidelines

Dr. Abeer Zeitoun (Clinical and Technical Manager): Highlighted the role of the LNPVP in advancing patient safety, including the LGVP's role to improve MAH practices. She also emphasized the LNPVP's consistent participation in international initiatives such as Patient Safety Day and MedSafety Week, reflecting on previous activities.

Dr. Aya Ibrahim (Clinical PV Officer): Presented an overview of the VigiMobile app, a digital tool enabling patients and healthcare professionals to report Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs). She guided participants on downloading and using the app, highlighting its role in strengthening patient safety through digital innovation.



I. EMPOWER YOUR SAFETY

World Patient Safety Day 2025

C. Contribution to ISoP WPSD Event

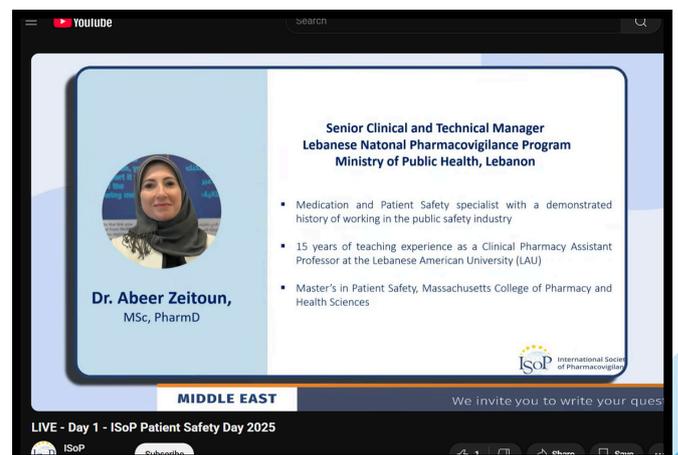
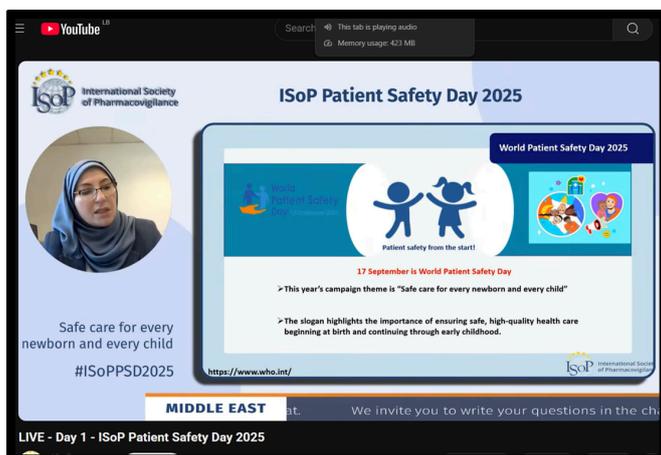
Dr. Abeer Zeitoun had the honor of moderating the ISoP Online World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) 2025 Middle East session.

The event gathered participants from across the region and featured distinguished speakers, Dr. Omar Bayoun and Dr. Samer Mohamad, who shared innovative ideas and practical solutions to advance safe care for every newborn and child.

Special recognition goes to Dr. Thamir Alshammari, PhD, FISoP, FISPE, and Dr. Manal Younus for their continuous dedication to strengthening the ISoP Middle East Chapter and for driving impactful initiatives in patient and medication safety.

Appreciation is also extended to Patricia Zuluaga Arias for her outstanding efforts in coordinating and organizing the event.

This year's ISoP WPSD 2025 serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of global collaboration in ensuring patient safety, highlighting that safeguarding health remains a shared responsibility across all healthcare systems.



II. EXCHANGING THE EXPERIENCE

A. 24th ISoP Annual Meeting - Cairo 2025

The International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) holds annually a meeting that gathers stakeholders across academia, industry, regulatory agencies, healthcare, and patient advocacy to advance the science and practice of drug safety.

Purpose

ISoP's mission is to promote pharmacovigilance (PV) scientifically and educationally and to enhance safe and proper use of medicines globally.

Key objectives

- Provide a platform to share recent research, regulatory updates, and case studies in pharmacovigilance.
- Promote networking, collaboration, and dialogue among PV professionals across regions.
- Offer training sessions, workshops, and capacity-building opportunities, especially for developing PV systems.
- Guide the global direction of PV by addressing emerging challenges such as data science, new therapeutics, and evolving regulations.

This year's meeting: ISoP 2025 “Pharmacovigilance: Back to the Future”

ISoP's 24th annual meeting was held between the 24th and 27th of October 2025 in Cairo, Egypt, under the theme “Pharmacovigilance: Back to the Future.”

That theme is intended to evoke a dialogue between lessons and foundations from PV's past and the innovations and directions shaping its future.

II. EXCHANGING THE EXPERIENCE

A. 24th ISoP Annual Meeting - Cairo 2025

LNPVP's participation & contributions

We are proud that the LNPVP team (**Dr. Abeer Zeitoun** and **Dr. Aya Ibrahim**) actively participated in this important international event.

Dr. Abeer Zeitoun, representing the LNPVP, delivered a presentation entitled “Pharmacovigilance in Lebanon: Our Journey and the Road Ahead” during the session “Updates for the Middle East”, with a spotlight on LNPVP’s achievements from its establishment back in 2018 till today. Adding to this, she provided a strategic vision for advancing patient safety in Lebanon. This placed Lebanon’s efforts within the broader context of regional progress in PV and challenges.



II. EXCHANGING THE EXPERIENCE

A. 24th ISoP Annual Meeting - Cairo 2025

LNPVP's participation & contributions

The team also presented an **abstract poster** on the status of the pharmacovigilance curriculum in Lebanon, highlighting the importance of integrating PV into professional curricula in order to graduate a generation with the culture of PV and reporting.

In addition, the LNPVP team attended several lectures and scientific sessions, gaining valuable global pharmacovigilance trends and best practices.

Through networking activities, the team built impactful connections with international experts and PV professionals, aiding for future collaboration and knowledge exchange.



II. EXCHANGING THE EXPERIENCE

B. WHO-PIDM Meeting - Cairo 2025

43rd Annual Meeting of the Members of the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring (PIDM)

iii About the Meeting

The World Health Organization (WHO) organized the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Members of the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring (PIDM) between the **27th and 29th of October 2025 in Cairo, Egypt**, in collaboration with the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) and the WHO Regional and Country Offices.

This year's meeting, themed **“Leaving no one behind: pharmacovigilance in women of childbearing potential and children,”** highlighted the need to strengthen pharmacovigilance (PV) systems to better monitor medicine safety in populations often underrepresented in clinical research.

💡 Purpose and Objectives

The WHO PIDM Annual Meeting serves as a global platform for more than 180 WHO Member States to:

Exchange experiences and best practices in pharmacovigilance.

Strengthen collaboration and work-sharing among national pharmacovigilance centers.

Discuss innovations, methodologies, and data-driven approaches for PV in vulnerable populations.

Collect recommendations to shape the future direction of the WHO PIDM.



II. EXCHANGING THE EXPERIENCE

B. WHO-PIDM Meeting - Cairo 2025

43rd Annual Meeting of the Members of the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring (PIDM)



LNPVP's participation & contributions

Lebanon was proudly represented by the Lebanese National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP) team:

- **Dr. Rita Karma** - Program Director
- **Dr. Abeer Zeitoun** - Clinical and Technical Manager
- **Dr. Aya Ibrahim** - Clinical PV Officer

Dr. Rita Karm, Team Lead of the LNPVP, actively participated in a panel discussion session on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in pharmacovigilance.

Through this participation, Lebanon reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening regional and global pharmacovigilance systems, building partnerships, and sharing experiences that support patient safety worldwide.



III. SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

TV Interview



Dr. Abeer Zeitoun, Clinical and Technical Manager, was invited for a TV interview that took place on 22nd July 2025 at 9:00 AM on برنامج نهار جديد on Al Manar TV.

During the session, Dr. Zeitoun discussed medication safety, the safe and rational use of medicines, and the critical role of pharmacovigilance in protecting public health.

She elaborated on how adverse drug reactions (ADRs) can be identified and reported, emphasizing the responsibility of both healthcare professionals and patients in ensuring medication safety.

To make reporting more accessible, **QR codes** of the official ADR reporting tools (VigiMobile E Form, and E-Reporting E Form) were shared with the public, enabling viewers to easily submit reports and contribute to improving medication safety nationwide.

Dr. Zeitoun also highlighted common medication errors, safe storage and usage tips, and the importance of consulting healthcare providers before starting any new treatment.

Report Now!



LNPVP: e-Reporting
e-Form



LNPVP: VigiMobile
e-Form



IV. REGULATORY ADVANCEMENT

WHO Global Benchmarking Tools (GBT)

LNPVP Participation in WHO Global Benchmarking Tools (GBT) Training

The LNPVP team participated in the “**WHO Global Benchmarking Tools (GBT) for the Evaluation of National Regulatory Systems**” training, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the request of the Ministry of Public Health and held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Beirut Verdun, from August 18 to 20, 2025.

The training brought together representatives from the Pharmacy Services, Inspection, Drug Registration, and Pharmacovigilance departments and was delivered by WHO experts.

It aimed to strengthen Lebanon’s national regulatory capacity by familiarizing participants with the GBT framework, enabling them to assess regulatory performance, identify gaps, and develop improvement plans aligned with international standards.

This initiative reinforces Lebanon’s commitment to a robust, transparent, and effective medicines regulatory system.

The WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) is the main framework for objectively evaluating national regulatory systems, as outlined by **WHA Resolution 67.20**.

It helps authorities:

- ✔ Identify strengths and gaps
- ✔ Develop institutional development plans (IDPs)
- ✔ Prioritize interventions
- ✔ Monitor progress toward stronger, more effective regulatory systems for medical products

PV Team Members at The MoPH

Dr. Rita Karam

Dr. Abeer Zeitoun

Dr. Aya Ibrahim

**Stay Vigilant
Stay Safe
Report**



ابقَ يَظَنَّا
ابقَ آمِنًا
بِغ