



INTRODUCTION

Barcelona, 1 June 2013

The Helsinki Declaration was launched at Euroanaesthesia 2010 as the result of an active process between the ESA and EBA in which many individuals and representatives of national societies were involved. The declaration states that steps must be taken to address the numerous human and technical factors that can affect patient safety, including drug and syringe labelling, checking equipment, difficult or failed intubation, bleeding, infections, local anaesthetic toxicity etc. It also requires anaesthesiology departments to collect data in order to produce annual reports on patient safety, so that improvement in safety practice can be made locally, tracked and then an exchange in knowledge and learning achieved. To date the declaration currently has 297 signatories from across Europe, including ESA National Society members, European and international societies, individual hospital anaesthesiology departments and anaesthesiologists as well as patient representatives and supporting industrial companies.

The ESA/EBA Patient Safety Task Force has assembled a Starter Kit on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology. The Task Force has spent three years working with a range of experts both within the ESA and across our member countries' national associations to produce these essential materials to guide good practice and improve safety in our specialty. Of course, many of the practices and tools referred to in the starter kit may be commonplace in many hospitals in Europe. The ESA and EBA hope that this Starter Kit will support hospitals that do not yet have the standards of the Helsinki Declaration fully established.

The Starter Kit has been completed with the support from leading industry in the field of anaesthesiology. In particular we would like to thank Covidien, Dräger, Edwards Lifesciences, Fresenius Kabi, GE Healthcare and Masimo for their support and commitment to making anaesthesiology safer and saving patients' lives

The Task Force will now begin work on implementation of the Helsinki Declaration on a national level. This must be done in a joint venture with the European Board of Anaesthesiology, with the National Anaesthesiologists Societies Committee of ESA and the individual national societies themselves. We will be working on a national or even departmental accreditation process that will demonstrate the adherence to the principle of the Helsinki Declaration.

The Task Force needs your help! Please contact us if you would like to be involved in this next step.

Sign the Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology now!



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