

Govt to give patient cover against negligence

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Fatal Errors

New Delhi: The health ministry is set to launch a national patient safety policy and a national infection control policy to provide patients with a safer healthcare environment.

India follows China and Russia in the number of surgeries conducted every year. However, the country till now has never conducted a national study to see how many people suffer or die because of medical negligence.

In comparison, US accounts for 98,000 deaths due to medical negligence every year, Canada 24,000 deaths and Australia around 18,000 deaths. This has now made India Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN) to undertake the country's first-

▶ Health care errors is the 8th leading cause of death in the world

▶ Over **7m** people across the globe suffer from preventable surgical injuries every year

▶ **1m** of them even die during or immediately after the surgery

▶ Globally, **234m** surgeries take place every year, one in every 25 people undergo a surgery at any given time. In developing countries, the death rate was nearly 10% for a major surgery

▶ Mortality from general anaesthesia affected one in 150 patients while infections were reported in **3%** of surgeries with the mortality rate being 0.5%

▶ Nearly **50%** of the adverse effects of surgery were preventable

Death Due To Medical Negligence

United States
98,000 every year

Canada
24,000 every year

Australia
18,000 every year

ever study to gauge the magnitude of the problem.

Launching the National Initiative for Patient Safety

which will ultimately be practised by over 135 medical colleges, health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "Several patients die in hospitals every year due to negligence and mistakes in medical care. Unfortunately, we in India don't have much research data on the occurrence of preventable errors. Most preventable errors result from the system, inadequate training, long hours and lack of checks. Efforts should be made to prevent errors. Accountability should not be person-oriented but organisation-oriented."

Dr Shakti Gupta from AIIMS added, "We are committed to increase accountability among healthcare providers by introducing them to the concept of pa-

tient safety."

WHO estimates that one in 10 people receiving healthcare will suffer preventable harm. A WHO study said more than seven million people across the globe suffered from preventable surgical injuries every year, a million of them even dying during or immediately after the surgery. Around 234 million surgeries take place globally every year. China conducted the highest number of surgeries followed by Russia and India.

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