



Wilms Cancer Foundation Supports WHO World Patient Safety Day 2026: Safe Care for Children with Kidney Cancer

WCF joins the “Safe care for life!” campaign to highlight patient safety, family engagement and continuity of care throughout Wilms tumor treatment and survivorship

WASHINGTON, D.C., USA - September 8th, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF)** is pleased to announce its participation in the **World Health Organization’s World Patient Safety Day 2026 campaign**, supporting international action to improve the safety of care for people living with noncommunicable diseases, including cancer.

Observed on **September 17th, 2026**, this year’s World Patient Safety Day focuses on “**Safe care for noncommunicable diseases**” under the slogan “**Safe care for life!**”

WCF will support the campaign by sharing WHO’s messages and resources with its community and highlighting their relevance to children affected by Wilms tumor, their families and long-term survivors.

The Foundation’s participation follows an invitation circulated to organisations participating in WHO’s **Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (GCM/NCD)** to disseminate the campaign’s communication, multimedia and social media materials.

Bringing Childhood Kidney Cancer into the Patient Safety Conversation

For WCF, the campaign provides an opportunity to emphasise that safe care must remain a priority throughout the childhood kidney cancer journey—from assessment and diagnosis through treatment, recovery and long-term follow-up.

The Foundation’s campaign message will focus on clear communication, coordinated services, understandable information and meaningful involvement of children and caregivers.

“Children and families need more than access to treatment. They need care that is safe, coordinated and responsive to their circumstances at every stage,” said **TJ Hodgkinson, Founder and CEO of the Wilms Cancer Foundation**.

“For the Wilms tumor community, that means helping families understand their child’s care, encouraging them to ask questions, supporting communication between healthcare teams and recognising that safety remains important long after treatment has finished.”

“Through World Patient Safety Day, WCF is reinforcing a simple principle: children, survivors and caregivers should be heard and supported as partners in care.”

Safe Care for Life

WHO’s campaign recognises that people living with noncommunicable diseases may interact with healthcare services repeatedly and over many years. Complex treatment needs, fragmented services and barriers to accessing care can increase opportunities for preventable harm.

The campaign calls for action across healthcare settings, homes and communities. Its priorities include stronger health systems, support for healthcare workers and meaningful engagement with people who have lived experience of illness. Further information is available on the [WHO World Patient Safety Day 2026 campaign page](#).

For WCF, these priorities reinforce the importance of considering the complete patient journey rather than viewing safety as an issue confined to an individual procedure or hospital admission.

WCF's Campaign Priorities

Through its education and advocacy, WCF will highlight practical patient-safety themes relevant to the childhood kidney cancer community:

- **Clear communication:** helping families understand information, ask questions and know whom to contact when concerns arise.
- **Coordinated care:** encouraging effective information sharing between professionals, hospitals and services.
- **Medication and treatment understanding:** supporting accessible explanations of treatment plans and the instructions provided by clinical teams.
- **Family engagement:** recognising the knowledge parents and caregivers contribute while including children in age-appropriate discussions.
- **Continuity into survivorship:** emphasising clear treatment summaries, follow-up plans and supported transitions between services.
- **Accessible information:** helping families find understandable resources that complement advice from their child's healthcare professionals.

These priorities support informed participation in care. Responsibility for safe healthcare remains with healthcare systems and professionals; families should not be expected to prevent errors by themselves.

Listening to Patients, Survivors and Caregivers

The campaign also highlights the importance of learning from people who experience healthcare firsthand.

In its communication to participating organisations, the GCM described its contribution to campaign development since March, including a consultation involving lived-experience experts, healthcare managers and specialists.

WCF welcomes this emphasis on listening to patients and communities. The Foundation believes that children, survivors and caregivers can identify communication difficulties, practical obstacles and gaps in support that might otherwise remain unrecognised.

Creating an environment in which families feel comfortable raising concerns is an important part of patient-centred care. Their involvement should be welcomed, respected and supported.

Global Campaign Launch on September 9th

WHO will launch the campaign through a global webinar titled **"World Patient Safety Day 2026 – Safe care for noncommunicable diseases"** on **Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, from 13:00–15:00 CEST**.



The event will bring together people with lived experience, policymakers, healthcare leaders, practitioners, civil society and international partners. Discussions will address unsafe care, priorities for improvement and the integration of patient safety into NCD policies and services.

The programme includes the launch of the campaign and its goals, emerging evidence on the burden of unsafe care, and a global dialogue moderated by **Sir Liam Donaldson**.

WCF encourages interested healthcare professionals, advocates and partner organisations to visit the [official WHO webinar page for information and registration](#).

Supporting Awareness Through WCF's Educational Work

WCF's participation aligns with its wider mission to improve access to childhood kidney cancer information and strengthen connections between families, professionals and international organisations.

The Foundation's educational work includes the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™**, **Global Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™**, **Global Educational Library** and **WCF WebApp**, available at www.WilmsApp.org.

These resources provide opportunities to reinforce the importance of understandable information, informed conversations and continuity of care. They complement clinical advice and do not replace individual assessment or treatment recommendations.

Through its campaign communications, WCF will encourage its community to explore WHO's resources, share relevant messages and consider how safer care can be supported throughout treatment and survivorship.

Taking Part in World Patient Safety Day

WCF invites families, healthcare professionals, researchers and partner organisations to support World Patient Safety Day on September 17th by:

- Sharing official WHO campaign materials.
- Promoting respectful conversations about patient safety.
- Listening to the experiences of patients, survivors and caregivers.
- Highlighting the importance of coordinated care and accessible information.
- Encouraging healthcare organisations to participate in campaign activities.

The Foundation's message is that safe care should be an enduring commitment—throughout childhood cancer treatment and throughout life beyond cancer.

About World Patient Safety Day 2026

World Patient Safety Day 2026 takes place on September 17th under the theme “**Safe care for noncommunicable diseases**” and slogan “**Safe care for life!**” The WHO campaign calls for collaboration across sectors and communities to reduce harm associated with NCD care.

Website: who.int/campaigns/world-patient-safety-day/2026

About the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs



WHO's **Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases** supports engagement and collaboration across sectors and stakeholder groups. For the 2026 campaign, it has worked with WHO technical colleagues and invited participating organisations to share campaign resources.

Website: knowledge-action-portal.com

About the World Health Organization

The **World Health Organization** is the United Nations agency dedicated to health. Its work includes supporting countries and partners to improve healthcare quality, advance patient safety and address noncommunicable diseases.

Website: who.int

About the Wilms Cancer Foundation

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation** is an international childhood kidney cancer organisation dedicated to improving awareness, education, support, research communication and global collaboration for children and families affected by Wilms tumor.

Through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™** and its international programmes, WCF works to expand access to trusted information, strengthen patient and caregiver education, support healthcare professional engagement and address inequalities in childhood kidney cancer outcomes worldwide.

Website: www.WilmsFoundation.org

Media Contacts:

Wilms Cancer Foundation

Telephone: +1 (778) 514 5000

email: info@WilmsFoundation.org

Website: www.WilmsFoundation.org