



SESSION SYNOPSIS

Patient safety as a core purpose of health and social care

Helen Hughes, Chief Executive, Patient Safety Learning



Speaker: Helen Hughes, Chief Executive, Patient Safety Learning

Session Type: Plenary

Prior to the pandemic, the NHS assessed there were over 11,000 avoidable deaths annually in the UK from unsafe care, with thousands more patients seriously harmed each year. In this session, Helen Hughes, Chief Executive of Patient Safety Learning, will outline why avoidable harm continues to persist, highlighting the implementation gap that exists between what we know improves patient safety and what is done in practice. She will set out the need for a transformation in our approach to patient safety, with patient safety being treated as core to the purpose of health and social care.

Speaker biography:

Helen Hughes is the Chief Executive of Patient Safety Learning, a charity and independent voice for improving patient safety. They seek to support safety improvement through policy, influencing and the development of 'how to' resources such as the hub, a free platform to share learning for patient safety. Helen's passion to improve patient safety is informed by personal family insight into the impact of unsafe care and the ineffectiveness of organisational responses to learn from error. She has been a Director and CEO at several healthcare, social justice and equality organisations, including the National Patient Safety Agency and the WHO.