

WFSA Takes Lead Role in Global Oximetry Project

The WFSA has increased its participation in the WHO / WFSA Global Pulse Oximetry Project intended to provide low cost basic pulse oximeters to resource-poor settings which currently do not have access, and is now taking the lead to ensure availability and affordability.

Closing the gap in access to these devices has required solving several problems:

- Defining the minimum specifications for a successful device from a public health perspective.
- Increasing awareness of the necessity of these monitors for safe surgery;
- Lowering the cost barrier for lower-income settings by pooling procurement and better organizing access to the market for these devices;
- Assisting with training materials and programs for those using pulse oximeters.

A partnership between WHO Safe Surgery Saves Lives and the WFSA in solving these problems plays to the strengths of all. WHO serves a vital role in defining the standards and specifications, as well as providing ongoing research (through the pilot studies) of how to ensure pulse oximeters have maximum impact in reducing surgical harm. WFSA serves a vital role in encouraging thousands of anaesthetists around the world to adopt the Safe Surgery checklist, identifying low resource settings not currently using pulse oximeters, arranging the pooled procurement mechanism for them, better organizing the market for manufacturers and offering lower priced items.

The WHO and WFSA have a crucial role in increasing the awareness of the need for these devices and assisting with training materials and programs for these devices. Following the example of the most successful global health projects, such as HIV, TB and malaria, as well as immunization, WHO provides the technical backstop while other partners conduct the logistical work

and project implementation.

Read more about the WHO involvement in the project.

WFSA is proud to take the lead on the Pulse Oximetry project and is dedicated to ensuring its success.

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