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Written Statement for Regional Committee Statement

The statement was made by Louise Bannon on behalf of International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis for the WHO Regional Committee for Europe sixty-ninth session.

Agenda Item: Accelerating primary health care in the WHO European Region: Accelerating primary health care in the WHO European Region: organizational and technological innovation in the context of the Declaration of Astana

A year ago, countries around the world today agreed to the Declaration of Astana, vowing to strengthen their primary health care systems as an essential step toward achieving universal health coverage.

Blood clot prevention is a fundamental marker of quality in essential health services and must be incorporated into UHC quality assurance measures.

1 in 4 people worldwide are dying from conditions caused by thrombosis - the formation of a thrombus (blood clot) in a blood vessel.

Prevention of thrombosis, an underlying pathology of heart attack, thromboembolic stroke, and venous thromboembolism (VTE), must be prioritised in the UHC pursuit of upholding quality of care in essential health services.

VTE is the leading cause of adverse events due to hospital admission globally and its prevention could be essential in moving together toward building a healthier world.

WHO Europe could and should act as a facilitator and disseminator of best practice evidence-based prevention, with the International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH), an official non-state actor, standing ready to lend its expertise, resources and global network towards this goal.

Prevention of hospital-associated VTE is a symbol of high-quality health care.

Ultimately, VTE risk assessment of hospital admissions is key to successful prevention and a marker of high quality healthcare in line with the UN HLM regarding upholding quality of care.

As an example, NHS England mandated risk assessments reduced deaths due to VTE related events within 90 days discharge from hospital by 15.4%.

This issue must be addressed. It is essential to patient safety, and to the health of all citizens of the world.